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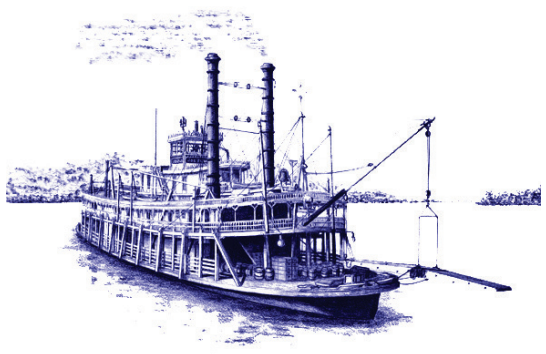


MADISON COURIER BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR ***PAGE B1***

THE MADISON COURIER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023 | *Serving the Courier area since 1837* | NEWSSTAND • $1.25

Police identify woman and 3 children found dead at house fire

ISP says all 4 victims had been shot

BY BOB DEMAREE

Indiana State Police have identified the four people who were found dead inside a burning home on Tuesday afternoon near Madison.

The victims were identified as Naomi Sue Briner, 35; Adelia Briner, 12; Leland Briner, 8; and Iyla Briner, 6. It is believed that Naomi Briner was the mother of the three younger victims.

Further investigation has determined that all four had injuries consistent with gunshot wounds at the time they were located inside the burning residence.

The home, located at 1623 East Telegraph Hill Road about 2 miles northeast of Madison, was fully engulfed by fire when first responders arrived on scene shortly after 4 p.m. on Tuesday. Local property records list the property as owned by Naomi Briner since April 2009.

The Jefferson County 911 center received a call concerning the fire at about 4:10 p.m. Upon arriving on scene, first responders found the home and garage engulfed in flames. Upon entering the residence, fire department personnel located the bodies of the woman and three children. Despite life saving measures, all four were pronounced dead at the scene.

Firefighters powered water on the fire and had it out by 5:12 p.m. "We blitzed it with 1,000 gallons of Rykers Ridge's pumper, blitzed it with 750 gallons off" one of Madison Township's trucks, and then had two tankers running water. "We never ran out of water," said Madison Township Fire Chief Robert Black, noting they continued to douse the structure until the fire was completely out.

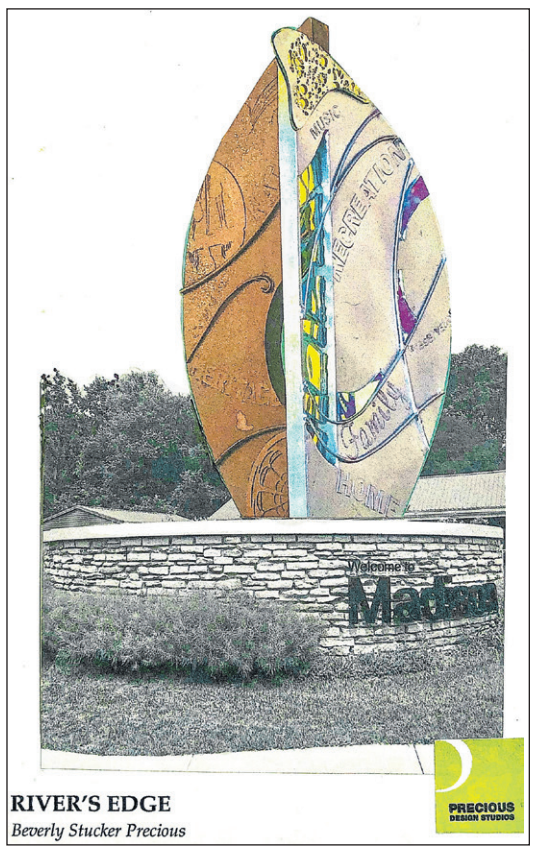
Black said firefighters remained on scene until 9:57 p.m. to be certain the fire did not rekindle, but that the house was a total loss. "It's still standing but it's destroyed. An attached garage to the house collapsed," he said.

SEE **FIRE/PAGE A8**

Photos by Mark Campbell

Smoke and fire billows from a home at 1623 East Telegraph Hill Road as firefighters arrive to battle the blaze Tuesday, Dec. 12. Indiana State Police are working with the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Jefferson County Prosecutor's Office and Jefferson County Coroner's Office to investigate the incident after four people were found dead with apparent gunshot wounds in the home located about 2 miles from Madison.

Madison firefighters and Jefferson County Sheriff's Officers check a rear room at the rear of the house in the 1600 block of East Telegraph Hill Road where a fire was reported shortly after 4 p.m. on Tuesday and a woman and three children were found dead. Indiana State Police have confirmed that the four victims had injuries consistent with gunshot wounds.



RIVER'S EDGE
Beverly Stucker Precious

Handout

"River's Edge," by Beverly Strucker Precious, was selected for the Madison/Milton Bridge Gateway Public Art Project at Tuesday's meeting of the City of Madison's Public Art Commission. The $200,000 project — $175,000 for the 16-foot sculpture — is scheduled for installation in mid-2024.

Public Arts Commission selects 'River's Edge' for Gateway project

BY BOB DEMAREE

After Madison's first-ever national public arts competition, the sculpture proposal "River's Edge" by Beverly Strucker Precious was selected for the Madison/Milton Bridge Gateway Public Art Project at Tuesday's meeting of the city of Madison's Public Art Commission.

"The idea and thoughts behind this design focused on the sculpture design welcoming travelers to the city of Madison and the state of Indiana," said Tony Steinhardt III, the city's economic development director. "It incorporates the dynamic concept of old and new, past and future, modern yet traditional elements."

The design is a two-part sculpture consisting of a stainless steel plane representing the city's future and a perpendicular plane of oxidized steel indicative of he tradition and heritage of Madison's past. The sculpture highlights a converging intersection of the elements, revealing carved, fired and fused dichroic glass representing the river itself. This unique form of glass reveals varying colors through different angles of light depending on the viewer's perspective, reflecting the constant yet ever-changing waters of the Ohio River. The sculpture will stand approximately 16 feet tall.

SEE **ARTS/PAGE A2**

Southwestern board approves $1M upgrade to aquatic center

Bethany Legacy to contribute $650K

BY BOB DEMAREE

The Southwestern Jefferson County Schools board of trustees accepted a $895,000 quote from American Leak Detection on Monday to construct a new pool at the Southwestern Aquatic Center — a project that is expected to cost almost $1 million.

With a pledge of $650,000 from Bethany Legacy Foundation to have some community access to the indoor pool, the school board will be funding the remainder of the cost. American Leak Detection's bid was $895,000, which does not include electrical costs that are estimated to be $50,000, bringing the overall total to $945,000.

After completion of the swim season in March, the current pool will be taken out and replaced with new concrete, electric, plumbing and pump for the new pool to be completed prior to the start of the swim season and classes in August 2024. The current pool, nearing 50 years old, was constructed in 1975 after the school was rebuilt following the April 4, 1974 tornado that destroyed the previous school.

Laura Boldery, chief financial officer for the school corporation, said anticipating other unexpected expenses the project will likely will be at least $1 million. "With the Bethany Legacy Foundation's pledge of $650,000, that leaves $350,000 for us to decide where that will come from," she said.

Boldery presented several scenarios on where Southwestern's funding may come. "I just want you to feel comfortable that we'll find the money if you decide to go ahead" with the new pool, she told board members prior to their unanimous vote to accept the bid from American Leak Detection.

SEE **UPGRADE/PAGE A2**

CHARLIE'S BEAT

McCaslin has vision for youth music in Madison

CHARLIE **ROHLFING**
CHARLIE'S BEAT

Regular readers of this column will know I'm probably the biggest cheerleader for the Madison music scene. I truly believe that pound for pound (for a town our size) we are legitimately Indiana's Music City. No other community our size can boast the level of talent, music culture, and consistent live music options that we do.

But I'll be the first to admit that the scene is somewhat one dimensional. The music tends to cater to the slightly older crowd, with styles like country and rock being most prevalent. Our musician corp tends to be middle aged, with the happy exception of bands like Vaguely Familiar and people like Jordan Wilson and Charlsee Gandee. And the venues are mostly over 21 bars and clubs. It's all great for me and my friends, but there is a glaring omission.

Madison needs a scene for the younger crowd, where aspiring musicians can perform and hone their craft, and young music fans can hear the styles of music they are most passionate about. This will also serve the very important role of filling the musician pipeline in our community, so Indiana's music city can survive in the coming decades.

I was hanging out at Analog Coffee downtown, enjoying a brew and buying a few albums, and talking to the staff there about this very conundrum. One of the baristas, Kelsey McCaslin, enthusiastically joined the discussion.

SEE **VISION/PAGE A8**

55 High 33 Low

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James Abbott, Pamela Ball, Hazel Ballard, Betty Chappell, Don Cheatum, Marilyn Christman, Lucien Cole, MaryAnne Cook, Carol Copeland, Wilma Darnold, Joseph Evans, Gerald Horine, Gurney Ossman, Mary Reed, Liane Triplett, Brooke Walters, Roy Wieber II, Esther Wright

8 51633 00100 7

Road closures set for next week

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Upcoming road maintenance projects will close two local highways next week in and around Madison.

The City of Madison Street Department will close Michigan Hill to traffic on Tuesday, Dec. 19, for maintenance. Work crews will be picking up leaves, and trimming back some trees during the closure, which is scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 19, weather permitting.

For questions or concerns, contact the City of Madison Street Department at 812-265-8304 or email at streetsec@madison-in.gov.

Additionally, Chicken Run Road will be closed between Thompson Road and Rogers Road beginning Monday, Dec. 18 through Friday, Dec. 22, while the Jefferson County Highway Department replaces small structures in an area near 7208 West Chicken Run Road.

Road closure signs will be posted at both work areas.

ARTS

FROM **PAGE A1**

The sculptor, Beverly Strucker Precious, is from South Bend, Indiana, and has a bachelor's of fine arts in sculpture and painting from the Herron School of Art at Indiana University. She is a professional member of the International Sculpture Center and the Chicago Sculpture International groups. Precious has earned dozens of awards nationwide, including the American Institute of Architects Design Award in Denver and was also awarded as a Festival Walk Complex Ltd. Sculpture Finalist in Hong Kong.

Local artist Eric Phagan, a member of the arts commission, said the sculpture will be Madison's "most contemporary art, especially downtown, and I think that's nice because we need things to contrast that we appreciate the community and all the things we have in the community. It will be contemporary but using old materials like glass, and steel, concrete — all those things that we've used for thousands of years. Having contemporary art creates another dialogue within our community."

Greg Goodknight, also a commission member, said, "Beverly's piece is a thought-provoking and a visually pleasing sculpture celebrating the rich heritage of Madison's past and the exciting future that lies ahead. It will be exciting to see this piece come to life in our community."

Mayor Bob Courtney said the sculpture is "the finishing touch to all the work that has been done near the bridge over the past several years and will make an incredible impression on those passing through this gateway. I am very pleased with the impact our Public Arts Commission is already having on our community."

LEARN MORE

The Public Arts Commission is currently seeking public comment on the guidelines that can be found at //madison-in.gov/publicarts. All comments should be submitted to Emily McKinney via email at emickinney@madison-in.gov.

The Public Arts Commission signed the contract with Precious following their meeting. Fabrication and construction of the sculpture will begin soon with final installation scheduled for mid-2024. The contract for the sculpture is up to $175,000 but Steinhardt expects that with installation and lights the total cost could be $200,000.

Half of the funding will come from $100,000 through the Redevelopment Commission and city grants. The other half will come by raising $50,000 from the online platform, Patroncity, with another $50,000 match through local private donations.

Kim Nyberg, chair of the Public Arts Commission, noted Patronicity is same platform in which funding was raised for the Kindness Mural that is now the focus point of the Mulberry Street Mural Plaza.

The meeting also included an introduction to the Public Art Guidelines that are being developed by Sara Peterson, a management and government consultant who lives in Bloomington. The Public Arts Commission is currently seeking public comment on the guidelines that can be found at //madison-in.gov/publicarts. All comments should be submitted to Emily McKinney via email at emickinney@madison-in.gov.

THE MADISON COURIER

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
2:30 p.m. Friday for Tuesday issue
Noon Monday for Thursday issue
Noon Thursday for Saturday issue

VOL. 223 • ISSUE NO. 108

NEWS OF RECORD

JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL

LODGINGS

December 11, 2023

Haylee Dawn Hay, 28, no address, on a Jefferson County bench warrant (bail revocation). Bond $5,000 cash.

Elizabeth Ann Smith, 55, Scottsburg, Indiana, on a Jefferson County arrest warrant. Bond $2,000 cash.

December 12, 2023

Mary Anastasia Boldery, 24, Jeffersonville, Indiana, for Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. No bond.

Kayla Michelle Crawn, 25, Madison, on a Jefferson County bench warrant, Bond $20,000 cash.

Allan Michael Doty, 41, Madison, for Criminal Confinement, a Level 6 felony; and Battery-Domestic, a Class A misdemeanor. No bond.

Jerica Jewell, 26, Canaan, Indiana, for Possession of Methamphetamine, Obstruction of Justice and Battery Against a Public Safety Official, all Level 6 felonies; Resisting Law Enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. No bond.

Wayne Russell Sachleben, 53, Madison, on a Jefferson County warrant. Bond $5,000 cash.

Steven Robert Snell, 37, Madison, for Domestic Battery, a Level 6 felony. No bond.

December 13, 2023

Michele D. Tingle, 39, Vevay, Indiana, on a Jefferson County arrest warrant for failure to appear (obstruction of justice and possession of paraphernalia). Bond $5,000 cash.

December 13, 2023

Diana L. Adams, 52, no address, for Unlawful Possession or Use of a Legend Drug and Maintaining a Common Nuisance, both Level 6 felonies; Operating While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor; Possession of Marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Released on own recognizance.

Dustin Howard Hardbeck, 35, no address, for Possession of Methamphetamine, Unlawful Possession or Use of a Legend Drug and Maintaining a Common Nuisance, all Level 6 felonies; Possession of Marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond $1,000 cash.

Donald R. Martin III, 31, no address, for Maintaining a Common Nuisance, a Level 6 felony. Released on own recognizance.

JEFFERSON COUNTY SUPERIOR & CIRCUIT COURT

SENTENCINGS

December 11, 2023

Mauro Labastida Martinez, 53, Carrollton, Kentucky, to amended charges of Possession of Cocaine, a Level 6 felony with Judgment of Conviction as Class A misdemeanor and Operating Without a Valid License, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 180 days jail with credit for 8 days served and 172 days suspended to non-reporting probation plus $389.50 in fees and court costs.

Linaco Flores, 19, Madison, to an amended charge of Operating Without a Valid License, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to zero days jail and $189.50 in fees and court costs.

Valentin Parra Sanchez, 45, Clarksville, Indiana, for Operating Without a Valid License, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to zero days jail and $189.50 in fees and court costs.

Almeyda Ullua Elder, 41, Madison, to an amended charge of Operating Without a Valid License, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to zero days jail and $189.50 in fees and court costs.

Heather Lynn Luellen Garcia, 46, Madison, to amended charges of Operating While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor; and Possession of Marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Sentenced to 270 days jail on Count 1 consecutive to 2 days jail on Count 2 with credit for 2 days served and 270 days suspended to supervised probation plus $689.50 in fees and court costs and license suspended for 90 days.

December 12, 2023

Heather Ann Neace, 35, Deputy, Indiana, for Theft, a Level 6 felony-Prior Conviction. Sentenced to 365 days at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 30 days served, 5 days to serve beginning Dec. 12, 2023, and 335 days suspended to supervised probation plus $489 in fees and court costs.

Richard William Stokes, 65, Madison, to an amended charge of Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 365 days at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 12 days served and 365 days suspended to supervised probation plus $889.00 in fees and court costs. Probation to run consecutive to prior 285-day suspended sentence for Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, with pretrial diversion revoked.

December 13, 2023

Dustin Cutshall, 33, Hanover, for Theft, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 180 days at Indiana Department of Correction, all suspended to non-reporting probation plus $189 in fees and court costs.

Deanna Lee Wilkins, 43, Jeffersonville, Indiana, for Domestic Battery, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 128 days jail, served, plus $289 in fees and court costs.

Tashawn Dewayne Manning, 45, Madison, to an amended charge of Criminal Recklessness, lesser included charge of Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 365 days at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 30 days served and 335 days suspended to supervised probation plus $689 in fees and court costs, restitution to be determined to Helen Creech within 90 days and No Contact Order to continue as term of probation. Upon Successful completion of probation, defendant may petition court to modify felony to misdemeanor.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

JEFFERSON COUNTY

December 11, 2023

Frederick L. Swinney and Dianna L. Swinney Revocable Living Trust, Frederick L. Swinney (revocable trust) and Dianna L. Swinney (revocable trust) to Frederick L. Swinney and Dianna L. Swinney Revocable Living Trust, Frederick L. Swinney (revocable trust) and Dianna L. Swinney (revocable trust), 5 parcels totaling approximately 125 acres at 3961 Geyman Road, Madison, 3579 Geyman Road, Madison, 7500+ North Bacon Ridge Road, Madison, and 3691 Geyman Road, Madison.

Theresa Baxter to Dennis Baxter and Theresa Baxter, 704 Walnut Street, Madison.

Theresa Baxter to Dennis Baxter and Theresa Baxter, 407 East Fifth Street, Madison.

Phillips Development Inc. to Gayle Liter and Brenda Liter, 150 West Greene Court, Hanover.

Peggy L. Gordon and Jimmy M. Gordon (deceased) to Peggy L. Gordon, 5.33 acres at 4200 North State Road 3, Deputy.

Michael James Koehler and Penny Jo Koehler to Ana Mata Gamboa, 11 South Oak Drive, Madison ($242,000).

Bonnie S. Hensler to Charles R. Hensler, 65 North 800 West, Madison.

Jeffrey Daghir to David M. Daghir and Sharon L. Daghir, two parcels at 337 and 339 Clifty Drive, Madison.

December 13, 2023

Wayne Donald Stearns (trustee) Wayne Donald Stearns (revocable trust) to Wayne Donald Stearns (trustee) Wayne Donald Stearns LLC (revocable trust), 213 East Second Street, Madison.

Laura A. Nilest and Laura A. Gray to Randall J. Gray, approximately 3.4 acres at 385 North County Road 900 West, Lexington.

James D. Koontz and Carolyn A. Koontz to Eric D. White, 2513 Lanier Drive, Madison.

Debra Squires to Tyler Hull and Katrina Hull, 412 St. Michaels Avenue, Madison.

Gerald W. Hines and Susan Hines to Jacob L. Adcock and Balie L. Adcock, 4084 West 400 Madison.

Block Inc. to Graham Happel LLC, 215 Clifty Drive, Madison

UPGRADE

FROM **PAGE A1**

Among the funding sources is the remaining $573,862 balance in a $2.5 million Common School Construction Fund Loan from the Indiana Department of Education. Those funds had been earmarked for two other projects — one that would transition a high school freight elevator into one that's ADA compliant and another that would develop a bus parking lot that would put the corporation's buses behind the bus garage while also creating a road to alleviate traffic congestion. Both projects have already been approved from the state's Office of School Finance.

Boldery said transitioning $350,000 of those remaining loan funds to the pool project could possibly provide the money, but also noted state approval would be necessary, and stated that's a "big if" that it gets approved.

She said another source for the money could be the Operations Fund in which Boldery said she had contacted the budget field representative who informed her that there's a potential for an additional $200,000 coming to the school corporation in that fund in the new year. She also said $100,000 could be pulled from the Rainy Day Fund.

Even adding the pool project, Boldery thinks "in my opinion we can accomplish several needed projects."

With an estimated cost of $253,600 for the bus parking lot and an estimated cost of $197,450 for the elevator project, she said that leaves $122,812, creating the possibility that $100,000 might come from the loan, $100,000 from the Rainy Day Fund and $150,000 from the Operations Fund.

In the school board's negotiation with American Leak Detection, board member Misty Jacobs noted the company will provide a three-year warranty on the new pool, along with reimbursement for a pump that had been purchased by the school corporation after the previous one malfunctioned. Those items were included as part of the board's acceptance of the contract with American Leak Detection.

American Leak Detection requested a down payment of $89,500 to get paperwork started for the project, which Boldery said the school corporation would be able to provide.

Jay Crawford, who coaches the Southwestern swim teams along with Shelly Anderson-Hamilton, said the pool in its current condition has required spending $50,000 per year on filters, which he noted not needing to purchase those for the new pool would just about save what the school corporation will be paying for its portion on the project in six years.

Three other quotes were submitted for the pool with the closest to American Leak Detection's bid being Spear Corporation for $950,948 that includes electrical. The other two were from CFM Sales and Service at $988,810 and Main Line Commercial Pools at $1,378,874 — of which neither included electrical.

In other business, the board hired Kelsi Schmidlapp as business teacher at Southwestern Middle and High School, effective Jan. 4. Also, the board approved the transfer of Kim Litchfield from middle school to fill the position of high school English/Language Arts teacher effective Jan. 4. Additionally, the board accepted the resignation of Tyler Gentry as teacher, effective Jan. 31.

BIRTHDAYS

Editor's Note: Got a birthday or anniversary coming up? Send name, date and number of years (optional) to zelda@madisoncourier.com or call 812-265-3641. Please leave your name and phone number in case we have followup questions.

DEC. 17
- Larry Duke
- John Haskell

DEC. 18
- Julie Kish Byrd-Jenkins

DEC. 20
- Matt Brawner

DEC. 22
- Jeff Ayler

DEC. 23
- Luanne McCammon

DEC. 26
- Roger Fuhrman

DEC. 27
- Rusty Bladen
- Terry King

WEATHER

Sunrise: 7:51 a.m.
Sunset: 5:22 p.m.
Temperature: High 52, Low 27, Mean 39.5, Excess 0.4
Precipitation since last published: 0
Precipitation, December 2023: .75
Precipitation, 2023: 44.52
Barometer: 30.57, Rising
River Level at Clifty Creek: 422.98, Falling
Forecast: Saturday: Cloudy High 54/Low 42; Sunday: Rain High 48/Low 37; Monday: Mostly cloudy High 42/Low 25; Tuesday: Mostly sunny High 38/Low 25.

LOTTERIES

INDIANA
Hoosier Lotto: 5-7-10-11-18-28 (12/13). Next Estimated Jackpot: $1.2 million. Next Drawing (12/16).
Cash Five: 2-3-10-11-35 (12/13)
Cash 4 Life: 5-20-23-48-53 CB: 3 (12/13)

KENTUCKY
Cash Ball: 3-5-31-34 CB 10 (12/13)
Kentucky 5 Extra: 7-22-23-24-38 (12/13)
Lucky For Life: 8-35-37-39-46
LB: 7 (12/13)
MEGAMILLIONS: 8-23-44-45-53 MB: 3, MP x4 (12/12). Next Jackpot: $28 million. Next Drawing (12/15)
POWERBALL: 3-8-41-56-64
PB: 18, PP 2 (12/13). Next Estimated Jackpot: $477 million. Next Drawing (12/16)
POWERBALL DOUBLE PLAY: 32-53-57-60-63 PB: 14 (12/13). Next Estimated Jackpot: Up to $10 million. Next Drawing (12/16)

County Council OKs abatement for battery storage farm 6-1

BY BOB DEMAREE

Jefferson County Council adopted a resolution on Tuesday providing a 10-year tax abatement Aypa Power had requested as an economic inducement to develop and operate a battery power storage facility on Madison's hilltop.

The approval followed a discussion about safety concerns and the economic ramifications of the decision along with concerns whether County Council had been given enough time to effectively research the matter.

The economic development agreement is a 10-year tax abatement where Aypa agrees to pay 2.5% on its estimated $150 million investment, which would be $3,750,000 spread out over the 10 years at $375,000 per year as a pilot payment. After that, Aypa would pay personal property taxes that Ian Evans, Aypa Power senior development manager, said would account to about $17.1 million over the next 20 years. Combined with the abatements the company would pay about $20.8 million over 30 years to locate in Jefferson County.

"The Commissioners and I have worked over the last several months on this deal to provide the county with what we believe is a strong financial package, and an opportunity for us to lead southeastern Indiana in real energy source," said Tony Steinhardt III, the city of Madison's economic development director.

In the end, the resolution passed on a 6-1 vote with only council member Pam Crozier opposing.

During the discussion, Crozier voiced concerns that County Council hadn't been given enough time to properly investigate the proposal. "We've had conversations. Even though we feel like it's a good deal," Crozier said, "there's a lot of important things to do, especially with the fire concerns. We've received calls from the public."

A similar concern was registered by Council member Chris Shelton, even though he voted in support of the resolution.

"My biggest question is, 'Why was the Council brought in basically in the 11th hour on this? Obviously, it's been going on for months and years, and we were not especially made aware of it until end of October and the first of November," Shelton said, adding that in the future he wants more time before having to make such decisions. "We have the responsibility to the taxpayers that we're well-informed and well-researched on projects if we're moving forward with something, and I don't feel like we were given adequate time or information to do that ... We're all for opportunities. We want to grow Jefferson County. We want to grow Madison and so forth. But we have to be brought into the picture earlier ... There's no way we can be brought in on the 11th hour and expect to make a solid decision."

Ian Evans, Aypa Power senior development manager, said it was "an oversight on my part to ensure you guys were in the loop. My apologies for that," particularly with the safety concerns that he said were considered in-depth in getting the conditional use permit from the Madison Board of Zoning Appeal that was approved Nov. 14, 2022.

Steinhardt said safety standards were established by the city's BZA that includes series of requirements, all of which related to safety that was in consultation at that time with the late Troy Morgan, the county's Emergency Management Agency director, at the time that was approved in 2022. "This is a recorded document, and it goes with the property, and will continue to stay with that project if that project would transfer."

There were also questions for Matt True, named the county's EMA director this fall. True said while he's aware of the dangers, he emphasized the need for proper battery management along with training response and planning response.

Council member Dwayne May asked True "if between now and this battery farm becomes operational, do you think we will be adequately prepared if there is a worst case scenario between their fail-safes and what we'll have in place by then?"

"I believe we will," True said, noting that with the proposed controls in place "we shouldn't have to send someone in to a dangerous situation. "I would feel comfortable saying, 'these guys (from Aypa) seem to have themselves together. We're working well together to be sure we do have an emergency action plan and mitigation things in place before anything happens. My mind is at ease for this."

True said he's "learned a lot the last month-and-a-half" about battery storage facilities, and what he's found out is that "the operation seems safe enough and I come from a chemical background," working as a firefighter at Dow Chemical in Carrollton.

Jeffrey Phillips, director of the Hanover College Engineering program, expressed concerns about fire dangers, even as he stated support for battery storage facilities. "We need them, particularly as more wind and solar power come onto the network, and it's not going to be available all the time, and we want to have those lights on all the time, so we're going to need more batteries."

Prior to joining the faculty at Hanover College, Phillips was a senior program manager for the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and he recommends following EPRI's safety procedures for battery storage facilities which includes a full hazard mitigation analysis, conducting an emergency response plan, training for first responders to address health and safety aspects of grid scale storage failures, and more.

"I would say, at a minimum, if you're going to go forward to provide a tax abatement subsidy for this project, you should make it a requirement that the project adhere to EPRI's recommendations, and that those requirements stay with the project, even if it's sold to another company in the future," Phillips said.

However, Evans said steps have already been taken to make safety a priority — reiterating that was established during approval at the Madison BZA — and added that an emergency management plan must be submitted and design and installation of the battery storage facility must comply with the National Fire Protection Agency. He said the facility will incorporate a monitoring system. Additionally, he said Apya, as owner and operator of the facility, must provide annual emergency personnel training on fire protection.

Phillips also questioned whether abatements would impact the economic viability of the project. He said the Madison battery storage facility should qualify for federal investment tax credits that were created by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, which provide 6% of investment back as a tax credit "which is significantly larger than what this property tax abatement will provide."

He said battery storage facilities are "being built at a rapid pace because the costs are dropping dramatically" and noted the U.S. Energy Information Administration tracks all new electric power facilities, and the latest list published in October shows 79 battery storage facilities have already been completed in the first nine months of this year, with a list of more than 300 are underway. "With that many projects going on, it tells me property tax abatement is not needed for all of them," Phillips said.

"It's important for you to realize that Jefferson County is an ideal location for battery energy storage, and that this particular site is an ideal location within Jefferson County," said Phillips, referring to the property's proximity to Duke Energy power transmission equipment.

Evans said what Phillips said about the number of battery storage facilities being built makes it that much more challenging for Aypa Power to make the Madison facility successful. "I think the main idea, and the main goal here is we want to remain competitive with other projects in the state. As Jeff said, there's a lot of projects being built, and it's rapidly. What that means, there's a lot of competition, all for the same contracts. If you have 100 contracts competing for the same 10 contracts, that's a lot different than 15 contracts competing for the same 10 contracts. That just makes those margins so much slimmer, so property taxes are one of those input costs that could be a difference, and we believe is the difference for staying competitive in the market for a number of reasons."

Evans also noted, "There are other counties providing these property tax abatements, so we're competing with those counties." And the same federal investment tax credits are also provided to them, too. "That doesn't really change the economic reality of that we're competing on the same level. If they're all lower that we're competing against, it doesn't really give us an advantage."

Forrest Forster, vice president of development for Aypa Power, said it's the need to be competitive that makes the abatements necessary. He said Aypa is "working with regulated utilities here in the state — folks like Duke Indiana and Hoosier Power. They're talking not just to us, they're talking to other battery developers that have battery projects across the state, all the developers are offering them pretty similar product. It all comes down to price. It's a very small difference between the prices. It's a range of difference of 5% to 10%. These property taxes are the difference for us to be in the middle of the pack or last. Having a chance to be economically competitive and get an off-taker contract, is the ticket to getting this thing built. Without the abatement, we don't think we'll be able to secure a off-taker. We need the off-taker agreement to secure the funding to build the project. And by building the project we will be able to provide you the revenue from the tax economic agreement."

As part of the economic development agreement, Aypa will pay an additional $10,000 per year for 10 years for the county schools to assist with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education. Steinhardt said Madison Consolidated Schools, Southwestern Jefferson County Schools and Prince of Peace Schools will each receive $2,500 annually, while Canaan Community Academy and Christian Academy of Madison will each receive $1,250 annually.

County Council president issues statement on lawsuit impacting water for new jail

BY BOB DEMAREE

With the threat that a lawsuit by Dupont Water Company against the City of Madison could delay the move of inmates early next year into the new Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and Criminal Justice Center, County Council President Ray Black Jr. read a statement concerning the litigation at end of Tuesday's Jefferson County Council meeting.

"Nearly three years have passed since the county requested information from Dupont Water. During that time, I spoke to the superintendent, secretary and board member Doug Hobbs. They could not give me an estimate on what the Dupont water rates would be nor did they confirm that they could have the physical infrastructure to actually be able to fulfill that commitment on our water," said Black, who anticipates that purchasing water for the jail through Dupont Water Company "would increase the tax rates for all residents of Jefferson County" since Madison sells bulk water to Dupont — and other area resellers like Canaan and Rykers Ridge water companies — for delivery and resale to their customers.

Black, who has stated in the past that buying water from Madison said he wanted to state "for the public record" that he and other County Council members "have requested multiple times for information from the Dupont Water Company, and have received nothing in return, and it's been going on for over three years."

Last weekend, Madison Mayor Bob Courtney noted that a lawsuit filed on March 17 in United States District Court Southern District of Indiana in New Albany, still has not been resolved. The suit, brought by Dupont Water Company against the City of Madison, is contesting which utility will be allowed to provide water service to the jail.

The suit stems from an ongoing issue that occurred when construction of the jail began. Dupont Water Company stated that it believes the new jail, which is located in the city's buffer zone, is within its service area and Dupont should provide water sales to for the 300-bed facility.

The county was granted permanent occupancy last week after construction was completed on the $45 million jail and administration offices have already begun their move with anticipation that inmates would likely be transferred early next year.

The Council also approved creation of two new positions for the county health department — a full-time Public Health Educator and a part-time Safety Inspection Officer — to be funded by Health First Indiana, the state's new health initiative in which Jefferson County decided be among the counties to opt in.

The Public Health Educator will work with the school nurse liaison and WIC (Women, Infant, Children), and provide educational training related to nutrition, safe sleep, trauma and prevention as it applies to toddlers and infants, and more. The Safety Inspection Officer would work as-needed assisting with new codes coming for 2024 by providing more education opportunities with regards to violations and more follow-ups, along with transitioning into an electronic food inspection program rather than one that's hand-written.

"Both of these positions help us meet what we have agreed to do with the new funding that we signed up for," said Lindsey Wyne, the administrator for the Jefferson County Health Department. Wyne said with the new Health First requirements, there are some that are requiring additional work for the health department "but I didn't feel they justified another position" but she said she will be asking for stipends for employees.

In other business, the Council:

- Had the first reading of an ordinance that allows the County Treasurer to invest county funds for more than two years and not less than five years. A second reading will be held at the County Council's meeting in January.
- Approved the 2024 salary ordinance that needed to be approved prior to the first pay period in the new year. However, with the county's 2024 budget not yet receiving official approval from the state and needing county handbook adoption with updated position definitions, County Auditor Heather Huff said Council will again need to vote on the salary ordinance in January. Huff anticipates receiving the "budget approval at anytime, but we do need to move forward."
- Approved $125,000 in additional appropriation from cumulative capital for information technology work that needed to done on the Courthouse server and firewall to provide greater security for protecting the county's information.
- Approved an encumbrance of $189,000 from public safety fund of money intended for the jail that is remaining from this year, so that it will be available in next year's budget.

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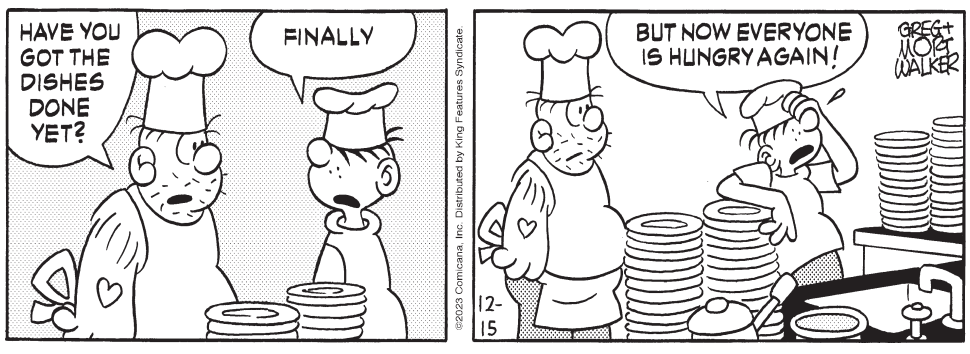
HAVE YOU GOT THE DISHES DONE YET?
FINALLY
BUT NOW EVERYONE IS HUNGRY AGAIN!
GREG+MORT WALKER
12-15
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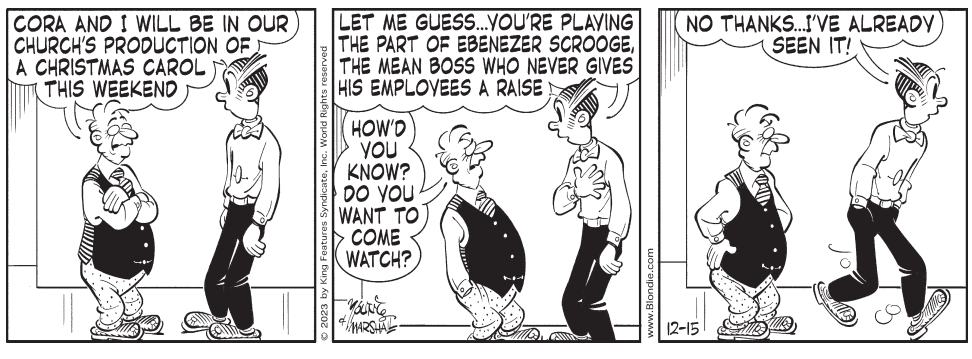
BLONDIE


CORA AND I WILL BE IN OUR CHURCH'S PRODUCTION OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL THIS WEEKEND
LET ME GUESS...YOU'RE PLAYING THE PART OF EBENEZER SCROOGE, THE MEAN BOSS WHO NEVER GIVES HIS EMPLOYEES A RAISE
HOW'D YOU KNOW? DO YOU WANT TO COME WATCH?
NO THANKS...I'VE ALREADY SEEN IT!
12-15
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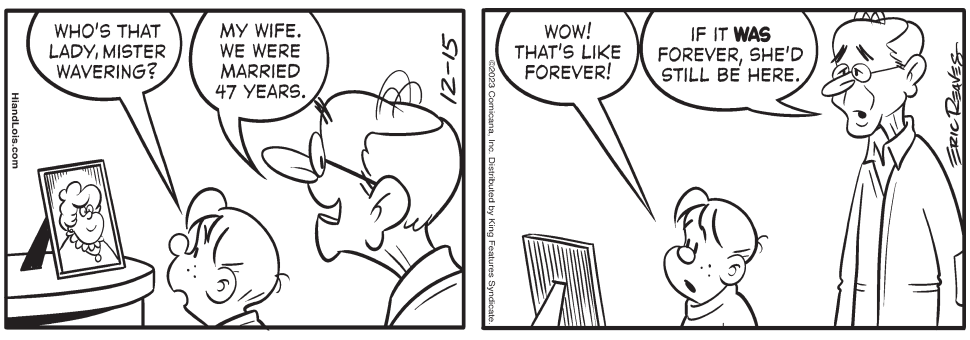
www.Blondie.com

HI & LOIS


WHO'S THAT LADY, MISTER WAVERING?
MY WIFE. WE WERE MARRIED 47 YEARS.
12-15
HIandLois.com
WOW! THAT'S LIKE FOREVER!
IF IT WAS FOREVER, SHE'D STILL BE HERE.
ERIC REYNOLDS
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BC

IS IT STILL THE RULE THAT ALL ARTISTS HATE THEIR OWN WORK?
NO, NOT FOR ME.
IT SHOULD BE.
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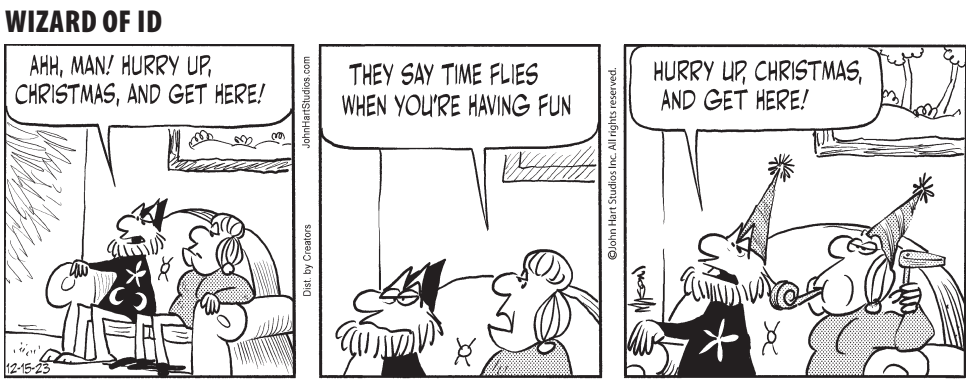
12-15-23
JohnHartStudios.com

WIZARD OF ID


AHH, MAN! HURRY UP, CHRISTMAS, AND GET HERE!
12-15-23
THEY SAY TIME FLIES WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN
HURRY UP, CHRISTMAS, AND GET HERE!
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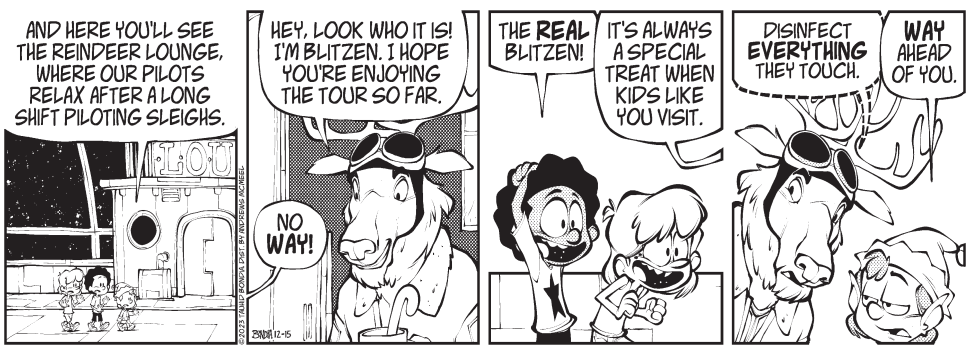
CRABGRASS


AND HERE YOU'LL SEE THE REINDEER LOUNGE, WHERE OUR PILOTS RELAX AFTER A LONG SHIFT PILOTING SLEIGHS.
HEY, LOOK WHO IT IS! I'M BLITZEN. I HOPE YOU'RE ENJOYING THE TOUR SO FAR.
NO WAY!
THE REAL BLITZEN!
IT'S ALWAYS A SPECIAL TREAT WHEN KIDS LIKE YOU VISIT.
DISINFECT EVERYTHING THEY TOUCH.
WAY AHEAD OF YOU.
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12-15

GARFIELD

I LIKE TO GIVE TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE
WHAT DID YOU DO?
I DONATED MY OLD SEQUIN BOW TIES TO CHARITY
HAVEN'T THEY SUFFERED ENOUGH?
HEY! THAT'S MY LINE!
JIM DAVIS 12-15
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FORT KNOX

WE'VE TACKLED HALF OF THE CHRISTMAS LIST, JOE!
THAT'S GREAT, JANE!
UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE A LOT MORE SHOPPING TO DO.
WE SHOULD DEAL WITH THE REST OF THE LIST IN A SIMPLE, EASY WAY.
GIFT CARDS?
IOU'S.
BUY!
SHOP
SHOES
DEBT
12/15
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PICKLES

IT MUST BE WINTER. YOU'RE WEARING YOUR TOUPEE.
YEAH. IT KEEPS MY HEAD WARM, BUT IT GETS A LITTLE SWEATY SOMETIMES.
THANK GOODNESS FOR THE OCCASIONAL BREEZE.
12/15
BRIAN CRANE
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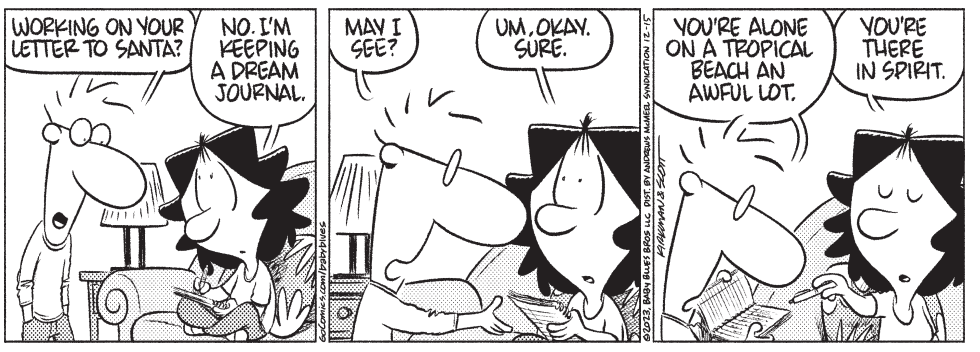
picklescomic.com

FAMILY CIRCUS

DENNIS THE MENACE

BABY BLUES


WORKING ON YOUR LETTER TO SANTA?
NO. I'M KEEPING A DREAM JOURNAL.
MAY I SEE?
UM, OKAY. SURE.
YOU'RE ALONE ON A TROPICAL BEACH AN AWFUL LOT.
YOU'RE THERE IN SPIRIT.
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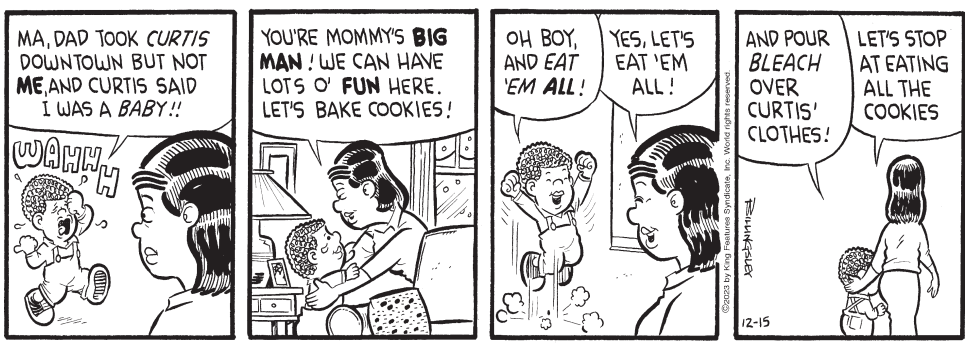
CURTIS


MA, DAD TOOK CURTIS DOWNTOWN BUT NOT ME, AND CURTIS SAID I WAS A BABY!!
WAHHH
YOU'RE MOMMY'S BIG MAN! WE CAN HAVE LOTS O' FUN HERE. LET'S BAKE COOKIES!
OH BOY, AND EAT 'EM ALL!
YES, LET'S EAT 'EM ALL!
AND POUR BLEACH OVER CURTIS' CLOTHES!
LET'S STOP AT EATING ALL THE COOKIES
12-15
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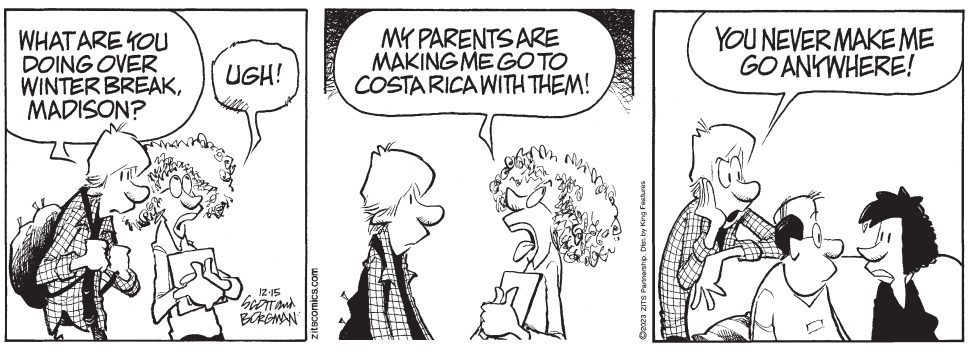
ZITS


WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER WINTER BREAK, MADISON?
UGH!
12-15
MY PARENTS ARE MAKING ME GO TO COSTA RICA WITH THEM!
YOU NEVER MAKE ME GO ANYWHERE!
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TODAY IN HISTORY

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 15, 1791, the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, went into effect following ratification by Virginia.

On this date:

In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, South Dakota, during a confrontation with Indian police.

In 1939, the Civil War motion picture epic "Gone with the Wind," starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable, had its world premiere in Atlanta.

In 1944, a single-engine plane carrying bandleader Glenn Miller, a major in the U.S. Army Air Forces, disappeared over the English Channel while en route to Paris.

In 1967, the Silver Bridge between Gallipolis, Ohio, and Point Pleasant, West Virginia, collapsed into the Ohio River, killing 46 people.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter announced he would grant diplomatic recognition to Communist China on New Year's Day and sever official relations with Taiwan.

In 1989, a popular uprising began in Romania that resulted in the downfall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

In 2000, the long-troubled Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine was closed for good.

In 2001, with a crash and a large dust cloud, a 50-foot tall section of steel — the last standing piece of the World Trade Center's facade — was brought down in New York.

In 2011, the flag used by U.S. forces in Iraq was lowered in a low-key Baghdad airport ceremony marking the end of a war that had left 4,500 Americans and 110,000 Iraqis dead and cost more than $800 billion.

In 2012, a day after the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, investigators worked to understand what led the 20-year-old gunman to slaughter 26 children and adults after also killing his mother and before taking his own life. In his Saturday radio address, President Barack Obama declared that "every parent in America has a heart heavy with hurt" and said it was time to "take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this."

In 2013, Nelson Mandela was laid to rest in his childhood hometown, ending a 10-day mourning period for South Africa's first Black president.

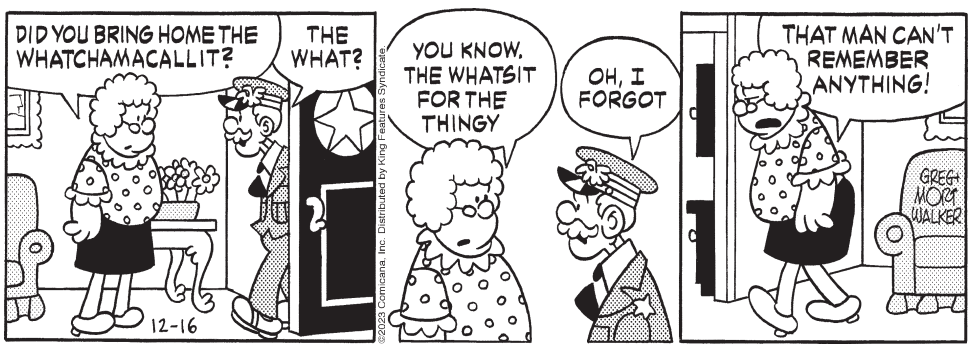
In 2016, a federal jury in Charleston, South Carolina, convicted Dylann Roof of slaughtering nine Black church members who had welcomed him to their Bible study.

In 2020, the Food and Drug Administration cleared the first kit that consumers could buy without a prescription to test themselves for COVID-19 entirely at home. After weeks of holding out, Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated Joe Biden on winning the presidential election.

In 2021, former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin pleaded guilty to a federal charge of violating George Floyd's civil rights, admitting for the first time that he held his knee across Floyd's neck and kept it there even after Floyd became unresponsive, resulting in the Black man's death.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Cindy Birdsong (The Supremes) is 84. Rock musician Dave Clark (The Dave Clark Five) is 81. Rock musician Carmine Appice (Vanilla Fudge) is 77. Actor Don Johnson is 74. Actor Melanie Chartoff is 73. Movie director Julie Taymor is 71. Movie director Alex Cox is 69. Rock musician Paul Simonon (The Clash) is 68. Movie director John Lee Hancock is 67. Democratic Party activist Donna Brazile is 64. Country singer Doug Phelps (Brother Phelps; Kentucky Headhunters) is 63. Movie producer-director Reginald Hudlin is 62. Actor Helen Slater is 60. Actor Paul Kaye (TV: "Game of Thrones") is 59. Actor Molly Price is 58. Actor Garrett Wang is 55. Actor Michael Shanks is 53. Actor Stuart Townsend is 51. Figure skater Surya Bonaly is 50. Actor Geoff Stults is 47. Actor Adam Brody is 44. Actor Michelle Dockery is 42. Actor George O. Gore II is 41. Actor Camilla Luddington is 40. Rock musician and actor Alana Haim is 32. Actor Maude Apatow is 26. Actor Stefania Owen is 26.

BEETLE BAILEY


DID YOU BRING HOME THE WHATCHAMACALLIT?
THE WHAT?
YOU KNOW, THE WHATSIT FOR THE THINGY
OH, I FORGOT
THAT MAN CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING!
GREG MORT WALKER
12-16
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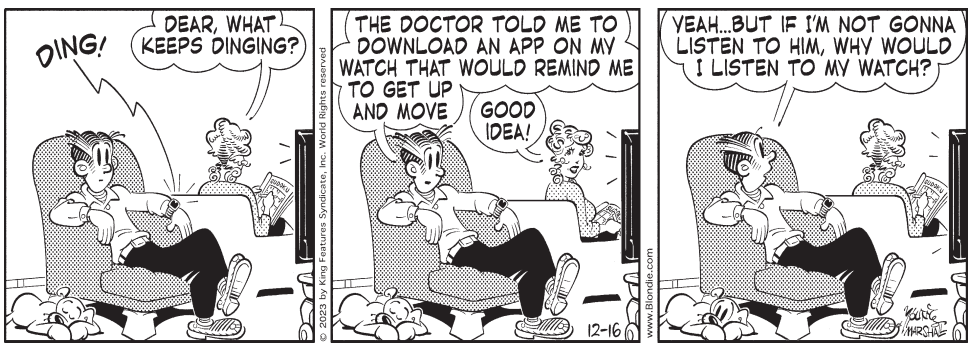
BLONDIE


DING!
DEAR, WHAT KEEPS DINGING?
THE DOCTOR TOLD ME TO DOWNLOAD AN APP ON MY WATCH THAT WOULD REMIND ME TO GET UP AND MOVE
GOOD IDEA!
YEAH...BUT IF I'M NOT GONNA LISTEN TO HIM, WHY WOULD I LISTEN TO MY WATCH?
12-16
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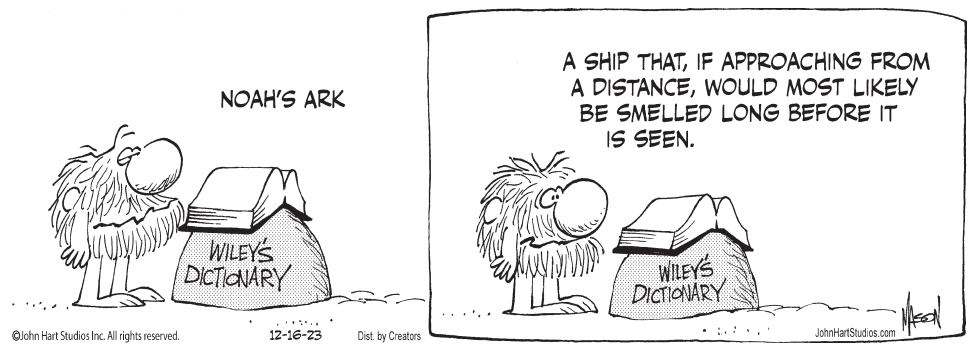
HI & LOIS

BC


NOAH'S ARK
WILEY'S DICTIONARY
A SHIP THAT, IF APPROACHING FROM A DISTANCE, WOULD MOST LIKELY BE SMELLED LONG BEFORE IT IS SEEN.
WILEY'S DICTIONARY
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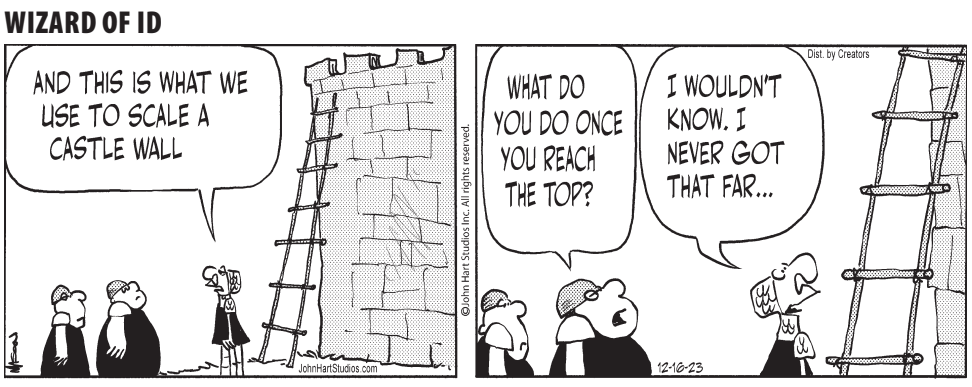
WIZARD OF ID


AND THIS IS WHAT WE USE TO SCALE A CASTLE WALL
JohnHartStudios.com
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WHAT DO YOU DO ONCE YOU REACH THE TOP?
I WOULDN'T KNOW. I NEVER GOT THAT FAR...
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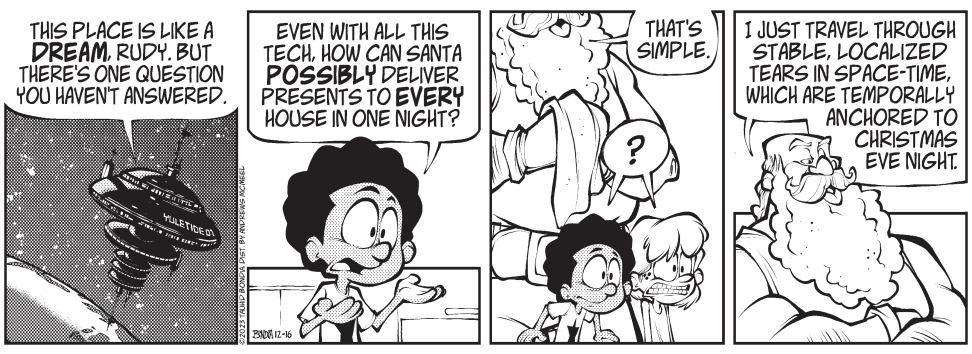
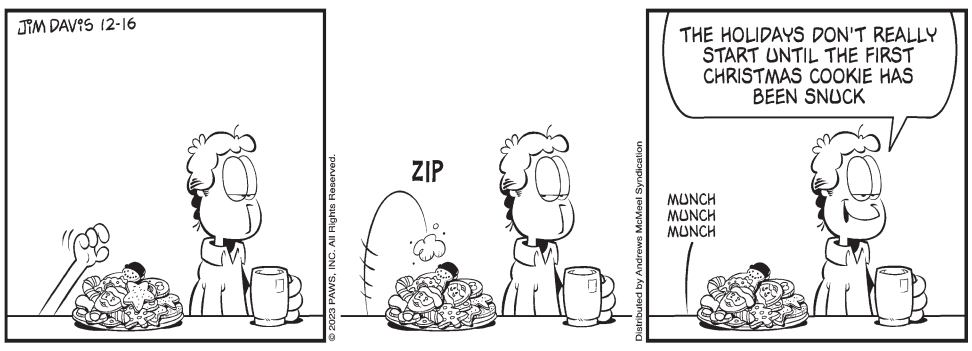
CRABGRASS


THIS PLACE IS LIKE A DREAM, RUDY. BUT THERE'S ONE QUESTION YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED.
YULETIDE M
EVEN WITH ALL THIS TECH, HOW CAN SANTA POSSIBLY DELIVER PRESENTS TO EVERY HOUSE IN ONE NIGHT?
THAT'S SIMPLE.
?
I JUST TRAVEL THROUGH STABLE, LOCALIZED TEARS IN SPACE-TIME, WHICH ARE TEMPORALLY ANCHORED TO CHRISTMAS EVE NIGHT.
12-16

GARFIELD


JIM DAVIS 12-16
ZIP
THE HOLIDAYS DON'T REALLY START UNTIL THE FIRST CHRISTMAS COOKIE HAS BEEN SNUCK
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
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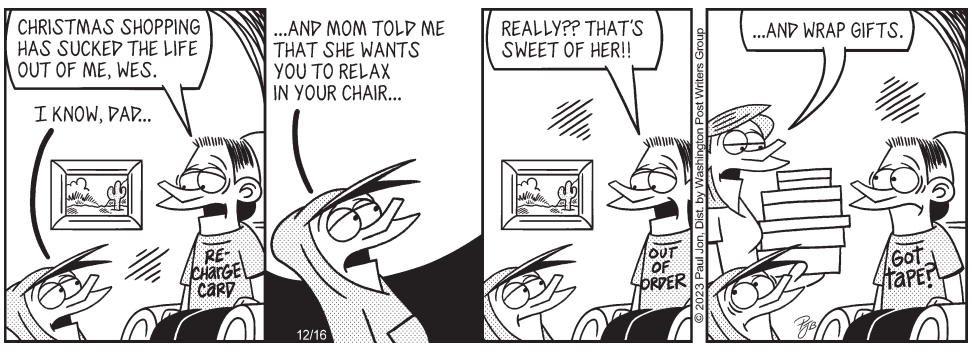
FORT KNOX


CHRISTMAS SHOPPING HAS SUCKED THE LIFE OUT OF ME, WES.
I KNOW, DAD...
RE-CHARGE CARD
...AND MOM TOLD ME THAT SHE WANTS YOU TO RELAX IN YOUR CHAIR...
12/16
REALLY?? THAT'S SWEET OF HER!!
OUT OF ORDER
...AND WRAP GIFTS.
GOT TAPE?
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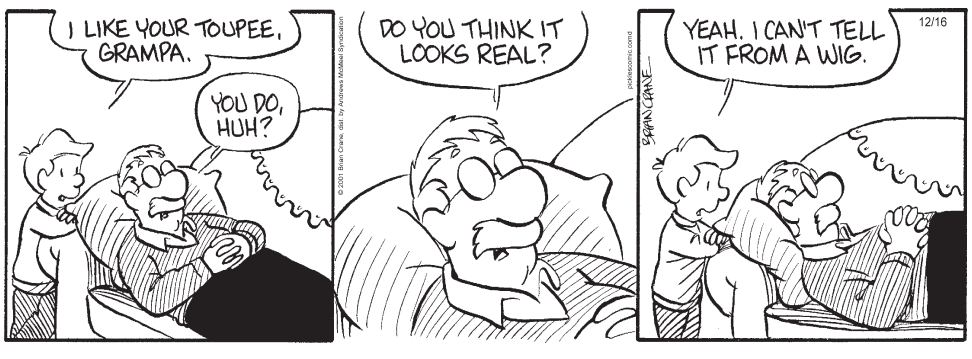
PICKLES


I LIKE YOUR TOUPEE, GRAMPA.
YOU DO, HUH?
DO YOU THINK IT LOOKS REAL?
YEAH. I CAN'T TELL IT FROM A WIG.
12/16
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picklescomic.com

FAMILY CIRCUS

DENNIS THE MENACE

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Hamilton
12-16
Siena's FASHIONS
"HAVE YOU BEEN GOOD THIS YEAR?"
"THAT DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH OF MY BEHAVIOR YOU CAN OVERLOOK."

BABY BLUES

I'M SORRY, ZOE.
FOR WHAT?
I HAVEN'T DECIDED YET. BUT YOU SHOULD WORRY.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
WHAT'S PTBD?
PERPETUAL TRAUMATIC BROTHER DISORDER.
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babyblues.com

CURTIS

BARRY FELT KIND OF IGNORED WHEN YOU TOOK CURTIS DOWN-TOWN AND NOT HIM
12-16
I DIDN'T MEAN TO. I NEEDED CURTIS TO HELP ME CARRY SOME HEAVY PACKAGES
WE CAN'T EVER LET THEM THINK WE'RE SHOWING FAVORITISM
BILLINGSLEY
TO MAKE IT UP TO HIM, TOMORROW I'LL LET HIM CARRY SOME CINDERBLOCKS!
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ZITS

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING TO BUY SARA FOR CHRISTMAS!
HMM
zitscomics.com
WELL, WHATEVER YOU DECIDE, DON'T WAIT TILL THE LAST SECOND TO BUY IT.
GOOD ADVICE, MOM.
12-16
SCOTT and BORGMAN
second-to-the-last-second gift ideas
TAP! TAP! TAP!
=SEARCH=
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TODAY IN HISTORY

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 16, 1944, the World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German forces launched a surprise attack against Allied forces through the Ardennes Forest in Belgium and Luxembourg. (The Allies were eventually able to turn the Germans back.)

On this date:

In 1653, Oliver Cromwell became lord protector of England, Scotland and Ireland.

In 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place as American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more than 300 chests of tea into Boston Harbor to protest tea taxes.

In 1907, 16 U.S. Navy battleships, which came to be known as the "Great White Fleet," set sail on a 14-month round-the-world voyage to demonstrate American sea power.

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman proclaimed a national state of emergency in order to fight "world conquest by Communist imperialism."

In 1960, 134 people were killed when a United Air Lines DC-8 and a TWA Super Constellation collided over New York City.

In 1991, the U.N. General Assembly rescinded its 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism by a vote of 111-25.

In 2000, President-elect George W. Bush selected Colin Powell to become the first African-American secretary of state.

In 2001, after nine weeks of fighting, Afghan militia leaders claimed control of the last mountain bastion of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida fighters, but bin Laden himself was nowhere to be seen.

In 2011, in San Francisco, eight years of being investigated for steroid allegations ended for home run king Barry Bonds with a 30-day sentence to be served at home. (Bonds never served the sentence; his conviction for obstruction of justice was overturned.)

In 2012, President Barack Obama visited Newtown, Connecticut, the scene of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre; after meeting privately with victims' families, the president told an evening vigil he would use "whatever power" he had to prevent future shootings.

In 2013, Ray Price, one of country music's most popular and influential singers and bandleaders, died in Mount Pleasant, Texas at age 87.

In 2014, Taliban gunmen stormed a military-run school in the northwestern Pakistan city of Peshawar, killing at least 148 people, mostly children.

In 2019, House Democrats laid out their first impeachment case against President Donald Trump; a sweeping report from the House Judiciary Committee said Trump had "betrayed the Nation by abusing his high office to enlist a foreign power in corrupting democratic elections."

In 2020, the first COVID-19 vaccinations were underway at U.S. nursing homes, where the virus had killed 110,000 people.

Today's Birthdays: Civil rights attorney and co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center Morris Dees is 87. Actor Joyce Bulifant is 86. Actor Liv Ullmann is 85. CBS news correspondent Lesley Stahl is 82. Pop musician Tony Hicks (The Hollies) is 78. Pop singer Benny Andersson (ABBA) is 77. Rock singer-musician Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top) is 74. Rock musician Bill Bateman (The Blasters) is 72. Actor Xander Berkeley is 68. Actor Alison LaPlaca is 64. Actor Sam Robards is 62. Actor Jon Tenney is 62. Actor Benjamin Bratt is 60. Actor-comedian JB Smoove is 58. Actor Miranda Otto is 56. Actor Daniel Cosgrove is 53. R&B singer Michael McCary is 52. Actor Jonathan Scarfe is 48. Actor Krysten Ritter is 42. Actor Zoe Jarman is 41. Country musician Chris Scruggs is 41. Actor Theo James is 39. Actor Amanda Setton is 38. Rock musician Dave Rublin (American Authors) is 37. Actor Hallee Hirsh is 36. Actor Anna Popplewell is 35. Actor Stephan James is 30.

OBITUARIES

MaryAnne Maloney Cook

MaryAnne Maloney Cook, of Madison, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, at Jewel Place in Madison.

She entered this life in Chicago on Jan. 5, 1940, the daughter of the late Martin and Mary Stockwell Maloney.

She grew up in Elmwood Park, Illinois and graduated from Elmwood Park High School and Moser Business College.

On Oct. 7, 1961, she married the love of her life, Robert "Bob" Cook, with whom she shared fifty-nine years of happiness and adventures.

The couple settled in Melrose Park and welcomed the birth of their daughter, Arlene.

After retirement in 2003, Bob and MaryAnne relocated to Madison, and became active and much-admired members of the community.

MaryAnne was a woman of many passions and interests.

Her love for animals, specifically horses, dogs, cats, translated into the establishment of the Dancing Dog and Cat Boutique, a pet-inspired gift shop that she owned and operated in downtown Madison, and a longtime advocacy for pet adoption and the establishment of no-kill shelters.

MaryAnne's heart also overflowed with compassion for children, as evidenced by her involvement in various charitable and social endeavors. She dedicated her time to the Jefferson County Youth Shelter as well as extending kindness to traumatized young children through her involvement with the Hephzibah Children's Association.

She was an avid supporter of Habitat for Humanity of Jefferson County serving as a longtime board member as well as board president.

She was also very active as a member of the Jefferson County Republican Women's Club, as well as the Daughters of the American Revolution, embodying a spirit of service and civic duty.

She found solace in the pages of a good book, enjoyed exploring her family's genealogy, and delighted in evenings spent playing cards and Rummikub with family and friends.

Her nimble fingers were often busy crocheting blankets for Veterans at the VA hospital, local nursing homes, and children in the foster care system.

As lovers of history and travelling, Bob and MaryAnne enjoyed many trips revolving around the subject and explored the region in which she lived with curiosity and joy.

MaryAnne was the #1 fan of Elvis Tribute Artist, Travis Albertson, and his performances brought her immense joy and excitement.

That, and her love of all things unicorn, reflected her whimsical spirit and her sweet tooth revealed her weakness for chocolate.

Mary Anne Cook is survived by her loving daughter, Arlene Flower of Bloomington, and granddaughter, Emelie Flower of Bloomington. She is also survived by her best friends, Evelyn Woolf and Joyce Graham.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Martin and Mary Stockwell Maloney, and her beloved husband, Robert "Bob" Cook.

A celebration of life will be held in the Spring of 2024.

Interment will be in the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1415 North Gate Road in Madison.

Memorial contributions may be made to Habitat for Humanity of Jefferson County, or Southwestern Schools-Scholarships for Seniors. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover.

Online condolences, remembrances and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Marilyn Jean Burton Curran Christman

Marilyn Jean Burton Curran Christman, 74, of Greensburg, formerly of Madison and Versailles entered this life on May 3, 1949 in Madison, the daughter of the late James Paton and Gladys Virginia Brown Burton.

Marilyn died on Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, at 5:12 a.m. at the Arbor Grove Senior Care and Nursing Home in Greensburg.

Marilyn will be missed by her loving sons, Neal Curran of Guilford, Timothy Curran of Indianapolis; her grandsons, Alex Curran (Lauren) and Benjamin Curran (Amber); her great-grandchild, Saylor; her brother, Wilbur "Tad" Bladen of Madison; her sister, Joyce Thornton of Madison; several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father, James Patton Burton; her mother, Virginia Gladys Brown Burton; her sisters, Donna Brady, and Rickie Lynn Heck; her brother, Jimmy Burton, Robert Curran the father of her sons.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, at 6 p.m., by Pastor Mike Jones at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison.

Interment will follow at a later date in the Vevay Cemetery, 800 East Main St., Vevay.

Friends may visit Saturday from 4-6 p.m. at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Vevay Church of Christ. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover.

Online condolences, remembrances and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Esther Elizabeth 'Betty' Center Wright

Esther Elizabeth "Betty" Center Wright, 91, of Madison, Indiana entered this life on Aug. 28, 1932 in Hazel Green, Kentucky.

She was the loving daughter of the late Taylor and Tiny Hobbs Center.

In 1952, she graduated from Central High School on Rykers Ridge, in Jefferson County. On Jan. 10, 1958, she was united in marriage to Phillip D. "Phil" Wright in Milton, Kentucky.

This happy union of 65 years was blessed with three children, Raymond, Mark and Beth.

Just out of high school, she worked for RCA in Indianapolis, Indiana.

After her marriage Betty was a stay at home mom and homemaker.

She was a member of Hebron Baptist Church.

She enjoyed square dancing and line dancing. She was a devoted wife, loving mom and grandma.

Betty died on Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, at 10:19 p.m. at her home in Madison, with her loving husband at her side.

Betty will be missed by her loving husband of 65 years, Phillip D. "Phil" Wright of Madison; her sons, Raymond Christman and his wife, Betty of Milton, KY; Mark Wright of Madison; her daughter, Beth Ferguson and her husband, David of Madison; her grandchildren, Dustin Christman, Rex Wright, Aaron Ferguson and Logan Ferguson; her great-grandson, Asher; her brother, Scott Center and his wife, Kay of Madison; her brother-in-law, Louis Wright and his wife, Margaret of Tyrone, Georgia; several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by father, Taylor Center, her mother, Tiny Hobbs Center, her sisters, Juanita Smith, Stella Faye Brown, Norma Willoughby, Jewell Holland and Wanda Burkhardt; her brothers, Ellis Center and Clinton Center.

Funeral services will be conductedon Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, at 1 p.m, by Chaplain Eric Wright and Pastor Rod Asher at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre,325 Demaree Drive Madison. Interment will follow in the Grandview Memorial Gardens, 9306 North U.S. 421 near Madison.

Friends may visit Monday 11 a.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre. Memorial contributions may be made to the Hebron Baptist Church.

Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover.

Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials can be left atwww.morgan-nay.com.

Liane (Lee) Fritsch Triplett

Liane (Lee) Fritsch Triplett, 81, of Nabb, entered this life on Oct. 12, 1942 in Bílovec (Wagstadt), Czechoslovakia. She is the loving daughter of late Rudolf and Anna Fritsch.

She grew up in West Germany and then moved to the United States. She lived most of her adult life in Milton, Ky. Most people will remember her from the 25 years she worked as a waitress/manager at the Steer Restaurant in Madison. When the Steer closed she then worked for 15 years and retired from Walmart in Madison.

Liane battled her last five years with dementia. She died peacefully on Dec. 6, 2023 in her home with her family.

Liane will be missed by her five daughters, Liana Wingham of Bedford, KY; Debra Fox of Louisville, KY; Michelle Hunt and her husband, Mike of Madison; Erika Jones and her husband, Matt of Milton, KY; Pamela Welsh and her husband, Kevin of Nabb; nine grandchildren, Natasha Triplett, Amber McIntyre (Justin), Michael Triplett, Eugene Crawford (Amber), Chad Wingham (Nikki), Stevie Ghrist, Billy Crawford (Kayla), Trey and Christian; her niece, Liane Becker and husband, Hans-Jürgen; great-nephew, Oliver Becker of Bruchköbel, Germany.

She will be missed by many great-grandchildren. Any child brought into the family became one of her own. Even the ones with 4 paws.

She is preceded in death by her father, Rudolf Fritsch; her mother, Anna Böhm Fritsch; her sister, Ingrid Fritsch Schäfer; her brother-in-law, Ludwig Schäfer; and her great-grandson, Jackson Wingham.

Per Liane's request there will not be a visitation or funeral.

Wilma 'Janet' McManis Darnold

Wilma "Janet" McManis Darnold, 95, of Vevay, formerly of Madison, entered this life on Sept. 9, 1928 in Carroll County, Kentucky.

Janet was the loving daughter of the late Joe Samuel McManis and Erby Irene Brent McManis Bryant.

After the passing of Roy in 2013, Janet moved to Vevay, where she resided until her passing on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, at 9:16 p.m. at the Swiss Villa Nursing & Rehab Center.

Janet will be missed by her loving daughters, Bonnie Konkle of Madison, Vicki Fox and her husband Stephen of Madison; her daughter-in-law, Janet F. Darnold of Madison; her grandsons, Mark Darnold and his wife Jenny, Christopher Darnold and his wife Tara; her granddaughter, Emily Lipchinski and her husband, Richard and Ryan Fox; her step-grandson, Brad Fox and his wife, Michelle; her great-grandchildren, Carlie, Austin, Kobe, and Kamron; her step-great-grandchildren, Taylor and Payton; her brother, Kenneth McManis and his wife, Charlotte of Bedford, VA; her half brother, Joe McManis of Dry Ridge, KY.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Roy M. Darnold, died Jan. 11, 2013; her mother, Erby Irene Brent McManis Bryant; her father, Joe Samuel McManis; her son, Roy Glenn Darnold; her son-in-law, Larry E. Konkle; and her sister, Francis Ann Watkins.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, at 1 p.m., by Pastor Chris Clemons at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison.

Interment will follow in the Caledonia Cemetery in Jefferson County.

Friends may visit Friday from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Brushy Fork Baptist Church. Cards are available at Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover.

Online condolences, remembrances and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Gerald R. 'Jerry' Horine

Gerald R. "Jerry" Horine, 82, of Cornelius, NC, died peacefully at home on Dec. 10, 2023 with his loving family at his side.

Jerry is survived by Murl and children, Brian, Michele Smith (Phil) and Mark.

He cherished spending time with his grandchildren, Amber (Adam), Matthew (Keri), Mackenzie, Jesse, and Amanda; as well as great-grandchildren, Jack and Annie.

Jerry enjoyed a close relationship with his siblings, Dennis Horine (Mary Anne), Beverly Harrison, Gale Horine, Danny Turner (Anna) and Denise Wells (Martin); and sister-in-law, Wanda Horine. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, Marshall and Elizabeth; brother, Herschel Dale Horine; sister, Marsha Jane Sammons; sister-in-law, Marie Horine; and brother-in-law, Ronald Harrison.

Jerry's family wishes to thank the care team of Hospice and Palliative Care of Iredell County in NC for their wonderful care.

A Celebration of Life is planned for a later date.

Joseph Glenn Evans

Joseph Glenn Evans, 65, of Dupont, passed away at his residence. Born Dec. 21, 1957, in Detroit, Michigan, he was the son of William and Eva (Johnson) Evans.

Survivors include his sons, Jessie (Jessica) Evans of Dupont, Joey Evans of Columbus, and Ben (Heather Campbell) Evans of LaMonte, MO; daughters, Abigail Reed of Dupont, Noel Irizarry of Charleston, SC., and Jasmin Evans of Oswego, IL; brothers, Daniel Evans of Hope and David (Judy) Gullett of OH; grandchildren, Elizabeth Evans, Isabella Evans, and Elsa Evans, all of Butlerville, Brandy Evans, Cain Evans, Suzan Evans, and Joan Evans, all of Dupont, Kayden Barwick and Mikey Barwick, both of Martinsville, Rylan Waskom of Elizabethtown, and Ray Irizarry of Charleston, SC.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, William Evans and Eddie Gullett.

A visitation for family and friends will be held from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, at the Dove-Sharp & Rudicel Funeral Home and Cremation Service in North Vernon.

Memorials may be made in honor of Joseph through the funeral home for expenses.

Mary Rose Reed

Mary Rose Reed, 80, of China, Indiana, died Dec. 11, 2023.

She was born May 1, 1943 in Wheeling, West Virginia.

She was preceded in death by her father, Joseph Bartsch, died 1961, her mother, Elizabeth Trischler Bartsch, died 1984. She survived her sister, Betty Goormastic, also a handmaid of the Good Shepherd and her brother, Edmond Bartsch (Elizabeth).

Funeral Mass will be conducted Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, at 10:30 a.m., by Father Christopher A. Craig at the Saint Anthony Church, Shepherds of Christ, 6015 North State Road 62 in China, Indiana.

Interment will follow in the St. Anthony Catholic Cemetery in China, Indiana.

Friends may call Saturday from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Saint Anthony Church, Shepherds of Christ.

In honor of Rosie, Masses can be said or donations given to Shepherds of Christ Ministries, PO Box 627 Madison, IN 47250.

SEE OBITUARIES/PAGE A7

OBITUARIES

Hazel Eileen (Moreillon) Ballard

Hazel Eileen (Moreillon) Ballard, 97, of Indianapolis, formerly of Fairview, entered this life on Dec. 9, 1926 in Fairview.

She was the daughter of the late Henry "Hank" and Gladys L. (Jackson) Moreillon.

Hazel passed away at 5:21 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, at Copper Trace in Westfield.

Hazel will be missed by her son, Jeffrey Ballard and his wife, Suellyn of Indianapolis; her daughters, Lynn Holliday and her husband, Don of Indianapolis, and Marsha Branson and her husband, Phil of Noblesville; her grandchildren, Karen, Patrick, Zachary, Brett, Kelly, Bryan, Bethany, Kathleen and Jackson; her great-grandchildren, Adam, Beau, Drew, Parker, Riley, Connor, Sam, Maggie, Harper, Emilia, Charlotte, Athan and Evan; and her several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Henry "Hank" Moreillon; her mother, Gladys L. (Jackson) Moreillon; her husband, Richard Edward "Dick" Ballard, died April 26, 2020 and her sister, Helen Marie O'Connor.

Visitation will be held from 12-1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15, 2023, at the Old Bethel United Methodist Church, 7995 East 21st St., Indianapolis.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15, 2023, by Pastor Adraine Rockhill, at the Old Bethel United Methodist Church, 7995 East 21st St., Indianapolis.

Entombment will follow in the Washington Park East Cemetery, 10612 East Washington St., Indianapolis.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Old Bethel United Methodist Church of Charity of the Donor's Choice. Cards are available at the funeral home or online at www.haskellandmorrison.com.

Gurney Thomas Ossman

Gurney Thomas Ossman, 58, of Florence, was born on Sept. 4, 1965 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Gurn was the son of the late, Thomas Arthur and Joanne Louise (Morris) Ossman. Gurney passed away on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, at his residence in Florence.

Gurney is survived by his children, Brandon Ossman and his wife, Aleah of Greensboro, NC, Nicole Green and her husband, Ryan of Lykens, PA, Erik Ossman and his wife, Morgan of Tremont, PA, Shannon Rosales and her husband, Christian of Vevay, Megan Stepp of Vevay, Morgan Gillespie and her husband, Keith of Farmington, NM and Kacie Harris and her husband, Alex of Vevay; his grandchildren, Freya, Felicity, Skylor, Camron, Chevy, Shyla, Bruin, Brylan, Logan, Erik Jr., Levi, Lydia, Bryce, Logan, Mya and Kinsley; his brother, Thomas "Tommy" Ossman and his wife, Gayle of Klingerstown, PA; his nephew, Zachary Ossman and his wife, Lauren; his niece, Amy Ossman and his special friends, Tim Miller, Casey Jones and his wife, Mary Ann, Leslie Jones and his wife, Missy, Scott Cecco and Frankie Sigmon.

He was preceded in death by his father, Thomas Arthur Ossman; his mother, Joanne Louise (Morris) Ossman; his grandson, Jayden Chase Rosales-Stepp, and his sister, Grace M. Ossman.

A Memorial Gathering will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15, 2023 at the Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home, 208 Ferry St., Vevay.

A Celebration of Gurney's Life will be conducted at 1 p.m., Friday, December 15, 2023, by Pastor G.B. Turner, at the Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Switzerland County Animal Shelter or Autism Speaks Foundation.

Cards are available at the funeral home or online at www.haskellandmorrison.com.

Brooke Charolette Wanda Sue Breeden Walters

Brooke Charolette Wanda Sue Breeden Walters, 31, of Madison, entered this life on Nov. 13, 1992 in Madison.

She was the daughter of Billy Gene Breeden and Tina Jo Massie Breeden Fergison.

Brooke died on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, at 7:53 p.m. at her home in Madison.

Brooke will be missed by her husband, Billy Joe Walters of Madison; her sons, Johnny Joe Walters of Madison, Eric James Walters of Madison, Jackson Eugene Walters of Madison; her stepdaughters, Blair Renee Riley and Caylee Jo Riley Walters both of Indianapolis; her father, Billy Gene Breeden of Madison; her mother, Tina Jo Massie Fergison and her husband, George of North Vernon; her grandpa, Kenneth Massie of North Vernon; her great-grandma, Charolette Carlisle of Madison; her sisters, Ashley Dawn Helton and her husband, Anthony of Madison, Billiejean Amburgey and her husband, Scott of Hayden; her father in law, Johnny Joe Walters and his wife, Patricia of Madison; her mother-in-law, Kimberly Jo Russell and her husband, Christopher of Hanover; her sister in laws, Amy Jo Wood and her husband, John of Arkansas, Christy Jo Walters of Scottsburg; several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her grandma, Linda Massie; her great grandpa, Freddie Carlisle; her siblings, Baby Girl Breeden; her twin sister, Chelsea Lynn Breeden, and Amanda Jo Hendrix; her stepson, Jensen Douglas Riley Walters.

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, at 2 p.m., by Pastor David Leland at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison.

Interment will follow in the Grandview Memorial Gardens, 9306 North U.S. 421 near Madison.

Friends may visit Sunday from 12-2 p.m. at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Brooke Walters Remembrance Fund.

Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover.

Online condolences, remembrances and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

DEATH NOTICES

James Lee Abbott, 89, of Lexington, IN, died Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, at his home. A celebration of life will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 15, at Grayson Funeral Home in New Washington, IN, with burial in Hibernia Cemetery in Hibernia, IN, www.graysonfuneralhomes.com.

Pamela Dean Boyer Ball, 76, of La Grange, KY, died Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, at Baptist Hospital East in Louisville. Graveside services were Thursday, Dec. 14, at New Castle Cemetery in New Castle, KY, with interment there. A public memorial service will be scheduled in January 2024. Arrangements by Ransdell Funeral Home in Bedford, KY, www.ransdellfuneral.com.

Betty Walker Chappell, 86, of Wheatley, KY, died Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, at Signature Healthcare in Carrollton, KY. Funeral service was Tuesday, Dec. 12, at New Funeral Homes in Owenton, KY, with burial in the Owenton Cemetery there, www.mcdonaldandnew.com.

Don Nevils Cheatum, 77, of Turners Station, KY, died Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, in Louisville. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, at Tandy-Eckler-Riley Funeral Home in Carrollton KY, with burial in the Ghent Second Baptist Cemetery, www.tandyecklerrileyfuneralhome.com.

Lucien Treadway Cole, 83, Turners Station, KY, died Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, at his home. Funeral service was Thursday, Dec. 14, at Tandy-Eckler-Riley Funeral Home in Carrollton, KY, with interment in the English Cemetery near Carrollton, www.tandyecklerrileyfuneralhome.com.

Carol Arlene Copeland, 88, of North Vernon, IN, died Friday, Dec. 8, 2023. Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15, at Ransdell Funeral Home, Bedford, KY, with interment to follow in Bedford Cemetery there, www.ransdellfuneral.com.

Roy Lee Wieber II, 43, of La Grange, KY, died Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023. Services were Wednesday, Dec. 13, at Ransdell Funeral Home in Bedford, KY, www.ransdellfuneral.com.

COOKIE ART

Trimble library's Teen Art Block giving teenagers fun and creative outlet

BY TAYLOR WILLIAMS
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

The Trimble County Public Library will host its first "Teen Art Block" class on Friday, Dec. 22, at 1:30 p.m. and the focus will be on cookie decorating.

Decorating cookies for the holiday season is no longer just for little kids.

Teenagers in Trimble County have a place where they can get a sweet treat and be creative all at once.

The Trimble County Public Library will host its first "Teen Art Block" class on Friday, Dec. 22, at 1:30 p.m. and the focus will be on cookie decorating.

The class is open to all teens, 6th through 12th grade, who can register for a spot by calling the Trimble County Library at 502-255-7362, and letting them know interest.

Participants will learn how to decorate elaborate Christmas cookies.

"They're going to get a sugar cookie and learn how to ice it and decorate it," Lauren Tweedy-Scott, the children's service librarian, said.

"Then they can taste test them here at the library or bring them home and share them."

Tweedy-Scott said all decorating supplies will be provided for the teenagers by the library.

"There will be sprinkles, different colors of frosting and royal icing," she said.

"You'll just get to learn some techniques to pipe on the frosting and kind of learn some tricks of the trade, so to speak.

"We just want to allow them to come in and have fun and kind of kick back and talk and laugh and eat cookies," Scott said, adding that hot coca will also be provided.

Once the teens are done decorating their cookies, they can either go play in the Teen Room of the library, where there is a PS5 and other gaming consoles to enjoy, or participate in the Gnome Scavenger Hunt or check out a book.

The class will be taught by Sarah Gross, the library's part-time programmer.

In addition to working part-time at the library, Gross also makes decorative cookies and cupcakes and has a lot of special techniques she will share with the teens on how to make their cookies special.

"I'm looking forward to seeing 6th through 12th graders come and enjoy some treats, laugh, have fun, and learn how to decorate cookies," Tweedy-Scott said.

"And I think it's going be a great outlet for them to just let the creativity flow."

The event is the first in a planned set of Teen Art Block classes. Tweedy-Scott said the library wanted to "come up with another way to engage teenagers in the area and let them be creative" but it's been a struggle to get teens to participate in such programs.

She said a lot of young people, especially teenagers, like to be creative and need an supportive outlet to achieve that and that "starting with cookie decorating that's not really very intimidating, is a good place to start."

The library plans to develop more Teen Art Block classes for teenagers in 2024.

The next class in January will be painting with Squeegee paint.

"It's like they get to squeeze paint out and scrape it down with a squeegee and just kind of see what they create," Tweedy-Scott said.

"It's about the process of making it, not necessarily the end product."

There will be plenty of other programs and activities for teenagers to enjoy over next year.

A Dungeons and Dragons program will start Jan. 8 and meet every other week and there will be a drawing club, a Hot Cocoa Adventure Bar in February where teens can create their own hot cocoa recipes, Nerf Wars on Fridays during the cold months, a Gamers' Hangout every other Saturday, and more.

"Every month we have fun things for teens to come in and do," Tweedy-Scott said. "It's always a good time here."

Growing Your Wealth

Exploring the Parallels Between Crop Insurance and Fixed Index Annuities

Layin' it on the line

By Stephen Dybwad
Retirement Planning/
Wealth Management

Imagine you are a farmer. You have been working the land for years, cultivating crops, and raising livestock. You have grown accustomed to the rhythms of the seasons, the unpredictable weather patterns, and the vagaries of the market. You have learned to adapt to the changing circumstances and to make the most of what you have. But as you approach retirement age, you realize you need a new strategy. You need a way to protect your assets and ensure a steady income stream for the rest of your life. That's where fixed-indexed annuities come in.

Fixed-indexed annuities can be considered the equivalent of crop insurance for retirees. Just as a farmer purchases crop insurance to protect against bad weather, pests, and disease risks, a retiree can purchase a fixed-indexed annuity to protect against the dangers of market volatility, inflation, and longevity. With a fixed-indexed annuity, the retiree can receive a guaranteed income stream that is not affected by market fluctuations while also enjoying the growth potential that is tied to the performance of a stock market index.

The way a fixed indexed annuity works is relatively simple. The retiree invests a lump sum of money with an insurance company, using that money to purchase a portfolio of bonds and other fixed-income securities. The insurance company also sets aside some money to purchase call options on a stock market index, such as the S&P 500. The call options give the insurance company the right to purchase shares of the index at a predetermined price, allowing the annuity to participate in the market's upside potential.

At the end of each year, the insurance company calculates the return on the stock market index. If the return is positive, the retiree receives a portion up to a predetermined cap. If the return is negative, the retiree's principal is protected, and they receive a guaranteed minimum return. In this way, fixed-indexed annuities allow retirees to participate in the stock market's growth potential while protecting their principal and providing a guaranteed income stream.

Fixed-indexed annuities can be particularly beneficial for retirees concerned about market volatility and inflation risks. With traditional fixed annuities, the retiree receives a fixed income stream that is not tied to the performance of the market. While this provides a high degree of safety and predictability, it also means that the retiree's income stream is not protected against inflation. With fixed indexed annuities, on the other hand, the retiree's income stream has the potential to grow with the market, which can help to offset the effects of inflation over time.

Another advantage of fixed-indexed annuities is that they provide retirees with a way to protect against longevity risk. Longevity risk is the risk of outliving your savings, which is a concern for retirees living longer than ever before. With a fixed indexed annuity, retirees receive a guaranteed income stream for the rest of their lives, regardless of how long they live. This can provide retirees with a high degree of financial security and peace of mind.

In conclusion, fixed-indexed annuities may be a valuable tool for retirees looking to protect their assets and ensure a steady income stream for the rest of their lives. Fixed-indexed annuities offer retirees a unique combination of safety and growth potential by providing a way to participate in the stock market's growth potential while protecting against market volatility, inflation, and longevity risk. Like crop insurance for a farmer, fixed-indexed annuities provide retirees with a way to protect their financial harvest and enjoy the fruits of their labor for years to come.

Stephen Dybwad, a long time Hoosier resident, is a member of *Syndicated Columnists,* a national organization committed to a fully transparent approach to money management. Syndicated Columnists is the sole provider of this material, both written and conceptual, for this column. All rights reserved.

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(retirevillage.com)

Players address Madison board in support of soccer coach Hertz

BY BOB DEMAREE

Hearing that Madison Consolidated Schools administrators are considering a coaching changes in the girls varsity soccer program in the future, players from the past and present attending Wednesday's school board meeting to speak in support of coach Janet Hertz, who has coached the Lady Cubs since 2017.

There has been no action taken on Hertz and Superintendent Dr. Teresa Brown said all coaching contracts are granted on an annual basis and that after one year "the contract has been fulfilled and we'll recommend for jobs next summer."

Board member Michael Scott told the supporters that while the school board votes on personnel as recommended by the administration, "it's my understanding, like yours, that the athletic department has made a decision to move in a different direction for the 2024 season" with the girls soccer program. "The proposal has been blessed by the MCHS principal and Dr. Brown.

"From the school board point of view, the next time we will vote on anything associated with the girls soccer program would to be to approve the hiring of next year's coach," Scott added. "As I sit here tonight, I'm very conflicted. Based upon what I personally witnessed by coach Hertz this past season, whether it be soccer games or practice, I see no reason to remove her as head coach. However, as a board member I need to refrain from micro-managing. I truly love and respect the job that Dr. Brown is doing for the school corporation, and contrary to what society wants to believe, it's OK to respect someone while disagreeing with them at the same time."

Kennedy Sheets, a freshman on the soccer team, said players were told one of the reasons Hertz may not return as coach is that her standards are too high for the program.

"However, these standards have shaped us as a team and led us to great success." Sheets asked that any decision to not rehire Hertz for next year be reconsidered. "This decision will have a lasting impact on our school, younger players, us current players and most of all our loving and dedicated coach," she said.

Kennedy Stidham, a 2020 MCHS graduate and former soccer player, said she was Hertz's first four-year player after Hertz became coach during Stidham's freshman year. "I could tell Janet had a love for the game that surpassed any coach that I've had," Stidham said. "More importantly, Janet has compassion for her players. Not only did she take the time to teach us more about the game of soccer and help us to find our love for game, she instilled a team attitude and emphasized our academic success" with 18 academic all-state recipients during her time as coach.

Stidham also credits Hertz with her success as a four-year women's soccer player for Marian University in Indianapolis by providing letters of recommendation and assisting in her recruitment process.

"I would not be there today without her," she said. "I can say I've never had a coach with more of positive impact on my life than coach Hertz."

Kailee Lock, a senior, said Hertz is her greatest role model. "We have high standards as a team because we want to challenge ourselves to become successful and independent women." Lock said. "Janet deserves to continue to coach because of everything she has done for all of us. The girls also deserve to continue to have an amazing coach."

Molly Armbrecht, a 2023 MCHS graduate, credited the high standards that Hertz established for the girls soccer program in her knowing the value of leadership and for receiving a four-year scholarship to Belmont University.

"I could go on for hours about the soccer experience I had but I think the more important part is the personal development" that she's achieved.

"I was just taught never to compromise our standards or lower our morals just because the people around us can't pull themselves to the highest standards we have set."

Brian Armbrecht, who is Molly Armbrecht's father and a member of the school board, noted "This is a difficult time for me.

"This is a situation where a lot of kids have showed up and spoke their piece about a coach that I think very highly of. And my daughter's not where she's at without" Hertz.

"I encourage all of you to send your remarks to the administrators." He also said he "personally would like to see Janet Hertz continue as the soccer coach, and if that does not happen" he encouraged Hertz "to take in to account all these girls — their statement, their attitudes show exactly what you've done for them, and I appreciate it, and I would like you to stay."

Hertz, a former standout player at Southwestern before playing college soccer at NCAA Division II St. Joseph's College, is 54-57-12 as coach of the Cubs.

Grief counselors called to help students, staff deal with tragedy

BY BOB DEMAREE

The Madison Consolidated School board of school trustees observed a moment of silence at Wednesday's meeting in the death of three Madison students who were shot and pronounced dead — along with their mother — in a fire at their home on East Telegraph Hill Road near Madison on Tuesday afternoon.

Later in the meeting, MCS Superintendent Dr. Teresa Brown said that in addition to providing counseling and support to students on Wednesday — the day after Tuesday's tragedy — she asked that everyone "keep our educators in our thoughts and prayers as well. They truly love our kids, and they are theirs. They belong to them, too, and this was a really hard days for the families, but certainly the educators who came in today and grieved together."

Brown commended employees in the central office who worked with several others and "got things ready so we could move forward today. They did a fabulous job of helping and all the different things we put in place."

She said 10 ministers from the community were on hand Wednesday to provide support to staff and students. In addition, dogs from the Comfort Dog Ministry, a program of Lutheran Church Ministries of Northbrook, Illinois, were brought into the community to help deal with grief. "They were present for kids, and they found them very comforting," said Brown.

Brown noted that Rob Moorhead, Superintendent of South Ripley Schools, and Jeffrey Bates, Superintendent of Southwestern Jefferson County Schools, both provided additional counselors to Madison schools to help students and staff dealing with the tragedy. "We greatly appreciate our neighboring communities helping to provide support for us as well," Brown said.

School board member John Wallace, who also serves as Madison Police Chief, noted, "I've been a law enforcement officer for 37 years, and I've had my share of tragedies that I've had to deal with, but I know one thing about our community — Madison and Jefferson County — we always rise to the top, and there's no better place than where we live right now to call home, so I would encourage each and every one of you to go out and lift somebody up. Lift them up with their memory, and do some good. You can never make sense out of what happened, but what we can do is go forward and make it the best we possibly can. Go out and lift somebody else up to make their lives better."

Wallace also noted he "would like to thank Dr. Brown and her leadership today. It is my understanding that all the support was there for our schools. She may say "that's what we do" but leadership was exceptional."

IN OTHER BUSINESS, THE BOARD

- Accepted the retirements of Michele Ward as physical education teacher at Lydia Middleton Elementary School, Gretchen Manaugh as elementary teacher at Rykers' Ridge Elementary School and LeAnne Blackerby as culinary teacher at Madison Consolidated High School — all effective May 28. Accepted the resignation of Alexis Ricketts as tennis coach, effective Dec. 7, and LeRoy Wilson as football coach, effective Dec. 11.
- Declared obsolete 400 copies of novels and 350 copies of textbooks to clear space in a storage room in order to create a sensory space at the high school to help students who may need that space to calm themselves down. Brown noted the sensory room is a space that may be helpful to special needs students but it will open to any student in need. "Anybody who really needs it," she said.
- Approved expanding the JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) program to include freshmen and sophomores. JAG is currently provided for juniors and seniors, and Brown said this is a continuation of the current agreement with the Southeast Indiana Workforce Investment Board. "There is funding that was increased, and gave us the ability to expand it," she said.
- Approved the purchase of a welding ventilation system for Cub Manufacturing at a cost of $135,493.25 through Koehler Welding Supply to be paid with bond funds.
- Approved a memorandum of understanding between the school corporation and Sandy Hook to train students to anonymously report threats on an app.

FIRE

FROM **PAGE A1**

In addition to the Madison Township and Rykers Ridge fire companies, Black said Madison Fair Play Fire Department No. 1 was on scene along with City of Madison Fire Chief Ken Washer. Norton King's Daughters' Health EMS also responded to the scene but there were no injuries other than those to the four occupants who died.

Black said Canaan and Hanover Township firefighters helped with clean-up of equipment once the crews returned to Madison Township Fire Department.

He said a Critical Incident Management team was to meet Wednesday evening with first responders and provide counselors to "talk with what all we had to deal with" while being on the scene of a fire with so many deaths.

Black said three state fire investigators now have been on scene, including Indiana State Fire Marshal Steve Jones. In addition to the State Fire Marshal's Office, Detectives with the Indiana State Police-Versailles are working with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Jefferson County Prosecutor's Office and Jefferson County Coroner's Office to investigate the incident.

Naomi Briner was a 2006 graduate of Madison Consolidated High School and was employed as a health services administrator at the Indiana Department of Correction's Madison Correctional Facility.

The three children either attended or formerly attended Madison schools, where grief counselors were called in to help students and staff deal with the tragedy. Leland Briner was a third grader and Iyla Briner a first grader at Rykers' Ridge Elementary while Adelia Briner is a former student at Lydia Middleton Elementrary and sixth grader at Madison Junior High School who was more recently attending Christian Academy of Madison.

(Information for this story was also gathered by Madison Courier Editor Mark Campbell.)

VISION

FROM **PAGE A1**

"I recently moved to Madison from Augusta, Georgia," Kelsey related, "and we had just the kind of thing you are talking about. When I was in middle school, I lived right across the Savannah River on the South Carolina side, and we heard about this all ages club called Sector 7G. It was a lot of punk and hardcore music, which wasn't really our style, but we went anyway because we were allowed in, and we were too young for most other places.

"We gained an appreciation for those styles of music, and a love for live music in general. Eventually Sector 7G closed down, but then a few years later I was working at a local record store called Grantski Records, and Evan, the owner, made a little space at the back of the store for a live music stage. It was an all-ages space, and pretty soon some magical things started happening there.

"It became this huge scene for the younger crowd, and some of the best up and coming bands passed through town and performed on the little stage. It really lit a fire under the all-ages music scene, and I know it inspired a lot of kids to start their own bands and give it a try. All they needed was a place to call their own.

"I think Madison could really use something like that, a place where the energy and passion of the younger music lovers can be expressed and shared.

"Speaking for myself, I'd be willing to invest my time in something like that. Maybe learn how to run the sound board and help with the shows. It really just takes some basic equipment, a space, it doesn't have to be huge, and 3 or 4 committed people to make it happen."

How about it Madison? Anybody have any ideas or resources to help make this happen? I can't think of a more important project for the future success and viability of our happy little music town!

Kelsey McCaslin, a barista at Analog Coffee, who is interested in developing a place where the energy and passion of younger music lovers can be expressed and shared.

Charlie Rohlfing

HOT TIP OF THE WEEK

On Thursday at Red Bicycle Hall there is a very special event. It's a Christmas Music Showcase, featuring an all-star line-up of Madison's best vocal and instrumental talent. Plus, it's the second annual induction ceremony into the Madison Music & Art Hall of Fame. There is a dinner buffet at 6p.m., then music and ceremony at 7 p.m. Tickets are $45 and worth every penny. I went to this last year and it was so much fun, all warm fuzzies and happy memories. Tickets are at MadTixEvents.com. Saturday has five live music choices, which is not bad for the cold doldrums of mid-winter. I'll probably be at the Taproom listening to Robby Cox on Saturday, he puts on a great show and the atmosphere is nonpareil.

Charlie Rohlfing is a retired advertising man and partner in The Red Bicycle Hall music venue. Look for his distinctive fedora bobbing above the crowd, anywhere live local music is happening.

THIS WEEK IN MUSIC

FRIDAY, DEC. 15

- **Rivertown Grill -** Vaguely Familiar
- **The Central -** Powerplant
- **Off Broadway Taproom -** Jimmy & Matt Moore

SATURDAY, DEC. 16

- **Rivertown Grill -** Crossfire Band
- **Off Broadway Taproom -** Robby Cox
- **Thomas Family Winery -** Highland Reign
- **The Drake -** Scotty Butters
- **The Central -** Strange Brew

SUNDAY, DEC. 17

- **Rivertown Grill -** Joe & Deano

FUN, GAMES, ACTIVITIES, GIVE AWAYS,
RAFFLES, SPORTS THEMED HOLIDAY CRAFTS +

MADISON PARKS AND RECREATION

Christmas Jamboree!

Grab a stocking and fill it up! Join Santa, the Grinch, coaches and sport reps at this merry jamboree event! You can learn about and register for upcoming 2024 programs and get some tasty treats along the way!

Feel like giving back during this generous season? You can also donate sports equipment and participate in a free swap meet!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023
NOON TO 3 PM, @THE BROWN GYM

MADISON COURIER BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR

Never satisfied, Madison's Hoffman leads charge for resurgent Cubs

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

By most people's standards, Travis Hoffman had a pretty good running season. The Madison Consolidated High School junior led his team to a fantastic season and a trip to the regional all while consistently posting the fastest times in the area.

But Hoffman isn't most people and while he does acknowledge that he did well this season, he was not even close to being satisfied.

"Honestly, this season is not what I expected or what I had hoped for but I still have time to work and get those times somewhere I think they should be," Hoffman said. "I felt like I worked harder than I have before but I didn't run all that faster. That's just a part of it sometimes, but I expect to do better next year."

It is that level of personal drive — and his strong showing this year — that led Hoffman to being named this year's Madison Courier Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. The desire to get better resides in all great athletes, but cross country runners are built differently and they approach each day as an opportunity to get just a split-second faster.

"The phrase that we've used a lot this year was, 'be pleased but not content' and that's definitely Travis. He's pleased at where he's at, but he knows there's still more left to give," Madison coach Kris Sandlin said. "He puts in a tremendous amount of work, and he's just really competitive. He hates losing at anything. And that's something you can't coach. That's comes naturally. And so that's what makes him good."

Hoffman was one of the better runners in the area the past few seasons but this year he took it

SEE **RUNNER/PAGE B8**

Nina Campbell

Madison Consolidated High School junior Travis Hoffman is the 2023 Madison Courier Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year.

David Campbell

Madison football head coach Leroy Wilson (left) talks with quarterback Matt McCarty earlier this season. Wilson announced his resignation on Tuesday after five seasons on the job.

Madison football coach Leroy Wilson announces resignation

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

Leroy Wilson wasn't sure what to expect when he took over as head football coach at Madison Consolidated High School in 2019 but he knew that he wanted to leave the program in a better place than he found it. Five years later, Wilson believes he did just that.

Wilson announced his resignation as Madison football coach on Tuesday. While he certainly did not win as many games as he would have liked, he said he is leaving the program with his head held high.

"Every coach comes to a place searching for what their ceiling might be. I never knew what my ceiling was going to be, but I wanted to leave it better than I found it and I think we did that," Wilson said. "The players get all of the credit of course, but these guys accepted the challenges and we accomplished a lot of great things. I'm proud of what we did."

Wilson's record at Madison is 12-38. On the surface, that doesn't seem all that great, but considering how low the program has been for much of the past four decades, Wilson's tenure is actually one of the more successful in program history.

His 12 wins rank second to Patric Morrison's 14 among coaches over the past 20 years and is sixth-most by any Madison coach. His .240 winning percentage is the best since Al Wilcox's tenure ended in 1999 and the fifth-best in program history.

While wins were still hard to come by, there were plenty of accomplishments. Wilson became the first Madison coach to beat Jeffersonville on the field and the first since Wilcox to beat Bedford North Lawrence twice. He also won the Battle of the Railroad game twice with wins over rival Jennings County.

That win over Jeffersonville was one of Wilson's personal highlights, but he will always keep the victory over Bedford North Lawrence in 2019 — his first-ever — in his heart.

"It sounds corny, but ever since I was a kid, I wanted to have that feeling of a water cooler dumped on you after a big win," Wilson said. "The way that game turned out, and Noah Caswell making that monster stop at the end, it was just a fantastic game. A hundred degrees out, 10 degrees out, I didn't care. That water cooler bath was just the best feeling ever."

Beyond the wins, Wilson also feels like he helped instill a "program" mentality and expects big things in the future.

"We've got two guys playing in college right now that are doing really well. Noah Caswell had an amazing season at Hanover and Trenton Barnes had a breakout season at Coe. And we've got the two youngsters up at Franklin, (Brady) Mack and (Clint) Hearne who did great," Wilson said. "I feel like I've done what I could and I feel like it's time for somebody else to come and take them where they need to be. The Class of '25 group is ready to go and they are just going to be amazing. I can't wait to see what they do."

Wilson is not sure what his next step will be but he is adamant that his coaching days aren't over. He and his wife, Alana, are expecting their third child over Christmas break and he can't wait to be the father of three sons.

"I have no idea what I'm doing next. This is not a case of I have another job lined up and am just waiting for job approval. I just felt like it was time to step aside and I wanted to give the school plenty of time to find somebody so that they have several months to work with the group," Wilson said. "But I'm definitely coaching again somewhere. I don't know where it will be or what it will be, but I'm not done coaching just yet."

Wilson came to the Cubs from Seymour but was previously offensive coordinator and quarterbacks and receivers coach at Providence, quarterbacks coach and scout at Charlestown and offensive coordinator and assistant head coach at Clarksville Middle School.

While Wilson doesn't know what is in store, he does know that he won't be coaching at Jennings County. A firm believer in rivals, Wilson won't even utter the name of the school from North Vernon and he made that a promise to his players when he left.

"I told them that there was no way that I will coach at the School Up North," Wilson said with a laugh. "I love rivalries and I don't care what sport it is in. So I made a promise to my guys that I wouldn't go up there. At least not for a few years."

Southwestern posts 6 wins in swim meet at home

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Southwestern's small but talented girls swim team picked up six wins in a quad meet at home on Tuesday.

Raygan Crawford scored four wins for the Rebels. Crawford won the 200-yard freestyle in 2:30.67 and the 100 backstroke in 1:12.84. She then teamed with Alexis Dean-Wells, Riley Crawford and Natalee Crawford to win the 200 freestyle relay in 1:59.42 and with Natalee Crawford, Adalei Watson and Dean-Wells to win the 200 medley relay in 2:21.70.

Natalee Crawford also won the 100 freestyle in 57.95 and Watson won the 500 freestyle in 7:22.91.

"The kids are working hard and tired right now. They are starting more individualized workouts geared toward their particular goals and specialties," Southwestern coach Shelly Anderson said. "They are studying for finals and practicing, which takes a lot out of all student-athletes. We are very pleased with their progress."

Shawe's Matthew Vaughn won the boys 100 freestyle in 51.96 and the 100 backstroke in 1:02.52 while teammate Orin Elkins placed sixth in the 50 freestyle in 31.67 and seventh in the 100 freestyle in 1:09.69.

Natalee Crawford was also second in the 200 individual medley in 2:27.50 for Southwestern, Riley Crawford was second in the 50 freestyle in 28.52, Watson was third in the 100 breaststroke in 1:39.38, and Dean-Wells was fourth in the 50 freestyle in 33.16 and fourth in the 100 freestyle in 1:16.42.

Southwestern's Robert De Paz Gonzalez swam seventh in the boys 50 freestyle in 43.65 and eighth in the 100 freestyle in 1:36.10 while Forrest

SEE **POST/PAGE B5**

CALENDAR

Friday, Dec. 15

BASKETBALL

Carroll Co. boys host Owen Co., 7:30 p.m.
Shawe boys at Crothersville, 7:30 p.m.
Southwestern hosts Jac-Cen-Del, 7:30 p.m.
Trimble Co. boys at Gallatin Co., 7:30 p.m.
Trimble Co. girls host Williamstown, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 16

BASKETBALL

Southwestern girls at Providence, noon
Hanover women at Mount St. Joseph, 1 p.m.
Madison girls host Borden, 2 p.m.
Hanover men host Mount St. Joseph, 3 p.m.
Carroll Co. boys at Williamstown, 7:30 p.m.
Madison boys at Austin, 7:30 p.m.
Southwestern boys at Clarksville, 7:30 p.m.
Switzerland Co. boys hosts Hauser, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING

Shawe, Southwestern at Floyd Central, 11 a.m.

WRESTLING

Madison girls, TBA
Southwestern, East Central Invite, 9 a.m.
Madison, Switzerland Co. boys, Columbus East Invite, 9:30 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 18

No local events

Tuesday, Dec. 19

BASKETBALL

Hanover men host Asbury, 3 p.m.
Shawe girls at Crothersville, 7:30 p.m.
Southwestern girls host Clarksville, 7:30 p.m.
Switzerland Co. girls host New Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Trimble Co. boys host Anderson Co., 7:30 p.m.

Madison swimmers come up short at Jeffersonville

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Madison's swim teams lost a hard-fought battle in the pool against Jeffersonville on Tuesday. The girls fell to Jeff 125-47 and the boys were edged 85-83.

"Our kids swam with a lot of heart and grit," said Madison coach John Schutte. "While the score for the girls was a little lopsided, they gave it their all filling in the gaps of five missing teammates. I'm very proud of all the girls stepping up and swimming events they normally wouldn't swim. They demonstrated great character."

The boys needed just one extra finish to win the meet, finishing just two points behind a very competitive Jeff team.

"The boys are really coming into their groove," said Schutte. "They swim with great passion, and it's definitely demonstrated when you see them come from behind to win a relay event."

Top results for the Madison girls were: Reilly Kuppler, first, 50 free, 26.47, and first, 100 free, 57.85; Avery Johnson, first, 100 back, 1:06.29, and second, 200 IM, 2:37.20; Bridget Cline, second, 100 breast, 1:33.47; Emma Wynn, third, 200 free, 2:27.49; Avery Johnson, Lilly Canida, Reilly Kuppler, Penelope Bibbs, and Emma Wynn, third, 200 medley relay, 2:10.43; Ellie Whitaker, Bridget Cline, Kira Brittain, and Laura Boles, second, 200 free relay, 2:20.43; Emma Wynn, Penelope Bibbs, Avery Johnson, and Reilly Kuppler, second, 400 free relay, 4:17.85.

Top results for the Madison boys were: Cam Sever, first, 200 free, 1:52.66, and first, 100 free, 50.46; Graham Klein, first, 100 fly, 58.06, and second, 100 back, 1:06.57; Garrett Klein, second, 200 IM, 2:28.36, and third, 500 free, 5:50.34; Kyle Roney, second, 50 free, 24.62, and third 100 fly, 1:04.53; Trenton Schafer, third, 200 free, 2:14.77; Tucker Whitaker, third, 100 free, 1:03.60; Cole Goodnight, first, 100 back, 1:04.29; Cole Goodnight, Beckham Cornelius, Graham Klein, and Kyle Roney, second, 200 medley relay, 1:57.06; Graham Klein, Beckham Cornelius, Garrett Klein, and Cam Sever, first, 200 free relay, 1:40.08; Kyle Roney, Garrett Klein, Cole Goodnight, and Cam Sever, first, 400 free relay, 3:38.64.

The Cubs will spend the next three weeks preparing for the second half of the season. Madison travels to Salem on Tuesday, Jan. 2 to begin the second half of the season.

Clemson beats Notre Dame 2-1 for NCAA soccer title

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Seniors Brandon Parrish and Ousmane Sylla each scored, and No. 9 Clemson held off No. 2 Notre Dame 2-1 on Monday night to claim the program's second national championship in three seasons.

Clemson (15-3-5), making its sixth championship game appearance in school history and second in three seasons, has won titles in 1984, 1987 and 2021. The Tigers also knocked off Notre Dame in the 2021 semifinals.

Notre Dame (13-3-6) was seeking its second championship in program history after winning the College Cup in 2013.

Parrish scored his eighth goal of the season for 1-0 lead in the 27th minute. Parrish chested a clearance attempt and sent a deflected shot from distance past a diving Bryan Dowd.

Clemson improved to 11-0-1 when leading at the half this season.

Parrish also cleared the ball off the goal line in the 58th to maintain a 1-0 lead.

Sylla, named the offensive most outstanding player, scored his 13th goal of the season, to go with 10 assists, in the 70th for a 2-0 lead. Sylla played it out wide near the midfield circle to Alex Meinhard, who dribbled in space to get into the box for a cross to the penalty spot for a wide-open finish.

Joseph Andema nearly recorded his fifth straight shutout in the NCAA Tournament until Tyler Trimnal was whistled for a handball in the 89th minute and Paddy Burns converted the penalty kick.

Burns also had a good scoring chance in the 56th when he was left wide open at the back post, but his off-balance shot went off the crossbar.

Andema made three saves for Clemson, which allowed 18 goals in its first 18 games of the season and just one in the last five. The Tigers went 449 minutes without giving up a goal in the tournament — nearly becoming the sixth champion to not allow a postseason goal.

The Tigers and Irish played earlier this season, with Notre Dame winning 3-2 on Sept. 9. Parrish also scored in that game, tying it at 2-all before Notre Dame's Daniel Russo scored the winner off a free kick in the 50th.

HANOVER ROUNDUP

Hanover women hammer Rose to remain unbeaten in HCAC play

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Hanover College women's basketball moved to 3-0 in Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference play with an 84-54 win over Rose-Hulman in Terre Haute on Wednesday.

Hanover used the first and fourth quarters to blow open the game. The Panthers outscored Rose 24-12 in the first and 27-11 in the fourth.

Grace Bezold, the reigning HCAC Player of the Week, scored 19 points and had eight rebounds to lead Hanover. Katherine Benter had 17 points, Kady Clancy scored 13 and Taylor Heath and Lily Ernstes had 10 each.

Hanover, now 4-4 overall, travels to Mount St. Joseph (Ohio) on Saturday. The Panthers return to action on Dec. 29 when they compete in the Bluffton (Ohio) Classic.

{h4 style="text-align: center " } Panthers pull away for win{/h4}

Hanover's men outscored Rose-Hulman by 14 points in the second half to post a 74-59 win Wednesday in Hanover.

Cam Freeman came off the bench to score 15 points and lead Hanover. Ty Houston and Avery Saunders scored 13 points each and Max Greenamoyer had 12 points.

Hanover, now 6-3 overall and 3-0 in the HCAC, travels to Mount St. Joseph (Ohio) and hosts Asbury (Ky.) on Tuesday.

Louisville dismisses guard Davis, who disputes he requested transfer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Louisville says it has dismissed Koron Davis, hours after announcing the junior guard had informed the program of his intention to transfer.

The school said it supported Davis and "wished him well in the future" in a brief release just before Wednesday night's game against Arkansas State. The release did not provide any details about his dismissal. A one-sentence release announcing his decision to transfer earlier in the day expressed the same sentiment.

Davis disputed that account on social media, saying on X, formerly known as Twitter: "I never asked to transfer. I enjoy being a Cardinal. The fact an official statement was released giving false information is disheartening and sad."

Davis was in the stands for the Cardinals' 75-63 loss to the Red Wolves but did not speak to reporters. Second-year Louisville coach Kenny Payne declined to elaborate on the conflicting statements after the game and said, "It's emotional for me because he's a good kid. It's one of those circumstances where we've already addressed it."

Davis, from Gary, Indiana, had not played this season after transferring from Los Angeles Southwest Community College as part of a Cardinals recruiting class ranked in the top 10 by several outlets.

COURIER AREA SPORTS SHORTS

BY THE COURIER STAFF

• Several area athletes have been honored as Ohio River Valley Conference players of the week.

Switzerland County's Lauren Smith earned the honor in girls basketball after setting a school record with 19 rebounds against Carroll County last week.

Southwestern's Peyton Cloud and Switzerland County's Cam Craig shared the award in boys basketball. Cloud had 49 points — including a career-high 36 against Batesville — in two games while Craig had 31 points and 10 rebounds against Rising Sun.

Shawe's Matthew Vaughn won the boys swimmer of the week award for the second-straight week with a pair of victories.

Southwestern's Natalee Crawford won five events and earned the award in girls swimming.

• Hanover College's Grace Bezold has earned her third Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Athlete of the Week award in 2023-24.

Bezold, a junior from Covington, tallied her third 30-plus point game netting a game-high 32 points in the Panthers' victory over Defiance. She added seven rebounds, two steals, and a block.

She currently ranks fourth among NCAA Division III women in points per game with an HCAC-leading 25.9 points. The junior also leads the HCAC in total points with 181.

Bezold upped her career total to 831 points.

• Switzerland County junior varsity girls basketball improved to 10-0 on the season with a 48-15 win over South Ripley on Tuesday.

Kaitlynn Stucker led the Pacers with 16 points and Addie Kelso had 14 points.

Switzerland hosted Hauser on Thursday and hosts New Washington on Tuesday.

• Southwestern junior varsity boys basketball hammered New Washington 55-10 at home on Friday.

Caleb Seals had 20 points and Kaedon Higgins scored 10 points for the Rebels.

On Saturday, Southwestern lost 61-40 to Batesville. Higgins had 13 points and Caleb Goode 10 for the Rebels.

Southwestern hosts Jac-Cen-Del on Friday and travels to Clarksville on Saturday.

• Madison jayvee boys basketball lost 49-36 at home to South Dearborn on Friday.

Matt McCarty scored 13 points and Austin Dailey six for the Cubs.

Madison, now 1-3 on the season, travels to Austin on Saturday.

• Madison Junior High girls basketball split with Austin on Wednesday.

The eighth graders defeated Austin 33-24. Natty Montgomery scored 15 points and had six steals while Izzy True had nine points for the Bears. Madison improves to 3-2.

The seventh grade lost 30-18. Mattie Floyd had nine points and eight rebounds and Kenzie Randall had six points.

BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Switzerland girls fall to South Ripley 62-42

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Switzerland County girls basketball suffered a 62-42 non-conference loss to South Ripley at home on Tuesday.

It was a tight game early with Ripley holding just a two-point lead heading into the second quarter. But the Raiders dominated the rest of the game.

Courtney Higgins led Switzerland with 12 points and Macy Collier with 10 points and three rebounds. Bri Stow and Molly Wrightsman had five points each.

Switzerland, now 7-5 on the season, hosted Hauser on Thursday and hosts New Washington on Tuesday.

{h4 style="text-align: center "}Trimble girls roll Eminence{/h4}

Trimble County girls basketball rolled to a 59-23 win over Eminence at home on Monday.

Addison Edmondson scored 17 points to lead the Raiders while Payton Butters had 16 points. Jolie Wilcoxson added eight points and Ashley Brierly had seven.

Trimble, now 3-1 overall, improves to 2-0 in 31st District play. The Raiders traveled to Gallatin County on Thursday and host Williamstown on Friday. Trimble then heads to the Smoky Mountain Christmas Classic in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, starting on Wednesday.

{h4 style="text-align: center "}Raiders break skid with win{/h4}

Trimble County boys basketball halted a three-game losing streak with a 52-45 win over Eminence at home on Tuesday.

Ethan Keller led the Raiders with 15 points, Ethan Horn scored 13 and Dylan Penick added nine points.

Trimble, now 2-3 overall, improves to 1-1 in 31st District play. The Raiders travel to Gallatin County on Friday and host Anderson County on Tuesday.

{h4 style="text-align: center "}Carroll boys drop close game{/h4}

Carroll County suffered a 56-52 loss at Henry County in boys basketball on Tuesday.

Baylor Nolin led the Wildcats with 22 points and Drew Cole scored 13 and had 11 rebounds.

Carroll, now 3-2 overall and 1-1 in the 31st District play, hosts Owen County on Friday and heads to Williamstown on Saturday. The Panthers host Augusta on Wednesday.

{h4 style="text-align: center "}Lady Panthers fall at Henry{/h4}

Carroll County girls basketball dropped a 46-30 loss at Henry County on Tuesday.

Madeline Lay led Henry with 15 points while Micah MaGruder and Ella Royalty scored 11 points each and Royalty pulled down 24 of the Wildcats' 41 rebounds.

Carroll, now 1-3 overall and 0-2 in 31st District play, hosted Owen County on Thursday and plays in the Smoky Mountain Christmas Classic in Gatlinburg, Tennessee starting on Wednesday.

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Arizona to face Purdue in marquee basketball matchup

BY DAVE SKRETTA
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Top-ranked Arizona is headed for a showdown with No. 3 Purdue on a neutral floor in Indianapolis on Saturday.

If neutral can be about 70 miles from the Boilermakers' campus in West Lafayette, Indiana.

That should hardly bother the Wildcats, though, who solidified their hold on No. 1 in the AP men's college basketball poll Monday by receiving all but one of 63 votes cast by media members. They were downright dominant in a 98-73 blowout of No. 23 Wisconsin last weekend, which Arizona coach Tommy Lloyd called "the best team we've played to this point."

Bold statement, considering Arizona already played a true road game against No. 22 Duke.

The Blue Devils, ranked second at the time, gave the Wildcats all they could handle that night at Cameron Indoor Stadium in one of the first marquee games of the college basketball season. But not only prevailed but served notice to the basketball world that they would be contenders for the national championship in Lloyd's third season on the sideline.

"We spend a lot of time talking about our Arizona basketball legacy," Lloyd said. "We take it really serious."

The Boilermakers, who were ranked No. 1 before ceding the top spot to the Wildcats with a loss to Northwestern, have similarly high hopes of contending for a title. And outside that lone blip in their Big Ten opener, reigning national player of the year Zach Edey and the Boilermakers have lived up to the expectations, including their run to the Maui Invitational title that included wins over 10th-ranked Gonzaga, No. 12 Tennessee and seventh-ranked Marquette in the title game.

In other words, they won't be intimidated by a matchup with the nation's top-ranked team in Indianapolis, either.

How evenly matched are the two teams meeting Saturday? Consider the fact that Arizona and Purdue (9-1) are the only teams in the nation that are ranked in the top nine for both adjusted offense and defense, according to the metrics at KenPom.

Both seemed to be getting better by the week, too.

MOVE OVER, FINALS

Most of the nation's top teams are on a hiatus until the weekend so that players can focus on final exams. But that means a big slate of high-profile matchups on Saturday, headlined by that Arizona-Purdue at Gainbridge Fieldhouse (**TV:** Live on Peacock at 4:30 p.m.).

Just down the road in Bloomington, Indiana faces second-ranked Kansas in the return game of their home-and-home series (**TV:** Live on CBS at 12:30 p.m.). The Jayhawks rolled to an 84-62 win last year in Allen Fieldhouse in a game that was never very close.

Two of the nation's blue-bloods will square off in Atlanta when ninth-ranked North Carolina continues its brutal nonconference schedule against No. 16 Kentucky (**TV:** Live on CBS at 5:30 p.m.). The Tar Heels are coming off a loss to No. 5 UConn and face No. 11 Oklahoma afterward.

A couple of Top 25 teams planned to have premier nonconference matchups only for their opponent to fail to hold up their end of the bargain — at least so far. That's the case for No. 8 Creighton, which faces an Alabama team that has lost three of its last five, and sixth-ranked Baylor, which faces a Michigan State team that has lost five of its first nine games. (The Crimson Tide, by the way, get to face Arizona just four days after taking on the Bluejays.)

Bucks, Pacers square off over Giannis' record game ball

MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokounmpo exchanged heated words with members of the Indiana staff and raced toward the Pacers' locker room Wednesday night as the teams squared off in a hallway in a dispute over the game ball following the Milwaukee star's franchise-record 64-point performance.

After the Bucks' 140-126 victory, Antetokounmpo had an animated discussion with Indiana star Tyrese Haliburton and other Pacers before rushing from the court toward the Indiana locker room in search of the ball.

The Bucks wanted the game ball for Antetokounmpo. Indiana coach Rick Carlisle said the Pacers took the ball for Oscar Tshiebwe, who scored his first official NBA point.

That led to a confrontation between members of the teams in the arena hallway. Afterward, there still was confusion over who had which game ball.

"I have no idea. I'm not going to lie," Antetokounmpo said. "I have no idea. I don't know. I really don't know. I have a ball, but I don't know if it's the game ball. It doesn't feel like the game ball to me. It feels like a brand new ball. I can tell. I played, what, 35 minutes today. I know how the game ball felt. The ball that I have, which I'll take and I'll give it to my mom for sure, but I don't know if it's actually the game ball."

One video appears to show the actual game ball being collected by a member of the Bucks' staff. Carlisle said the Pacers apparently have a reserve game ball they took after the game.

Bucks guard Cameron Payne said he was one of the players who went down the tunnel.

Carlisle said a number of the Bucks were in the hallway near the Indiana locker room and a confrontation occurred, with Indiana's general manager getting elbowed in the ribs.

"What happened after the game was unfortunate," Carlisle said. "There was a misunderstanding about the game ball. ... We were not thinking about Giannis' franchise record, so we grabbed the ball.

"A couple of minutes later, several of their players ended up in our hallway, and there was a big, I don't know what to call it — a fracas, melee, whatever. I don't think any punches were landed, but my general manager got elbowed in the ribs by one of their players. He certainly had a bruised rib and who knows if it's anything more than that. Unfortunate situation.

FRIDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	WAV..	News	Dolly Parton's Coat of Many Co...				Dateline (N)		WAV..
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	BigBa..	Sheldon	Christmas (N)		Daytime Emmy (N) (Live)				CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	Dolly Parton's Coat of Many Co...				Dateline (N)		News
8 WISH	12		News (N)		Inside..	ET (N)	Christmas Parade (N)				News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	News	Extra	Shark Tank (N)		20/20 (N)				News
11 WHAS	11	4	News	World..	ET (N)	Inside..	Shark Tank (N)		20/20 (N)				News
15 WKPC	13		Ameri..	Edition	NewsHour (N)		Comm..	Week	Lookingglass Alice (N)				BBCN..
19 WXIX	10		FOX19	FOX19	Wheel	Jeopar..	Fri. Night SmackDown (N) (Live)				FOX19 (N)		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	News	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	Christmas (N)		Daytime Emmy (N) (Live)				News
34 WBKI	7	7	Neighb..	House..	Sheldon	BigBa..	Christmas Parade (N)				BigBa..	Sheldon	LastM..
41 WDRB	8	9	WDR..	News	FamFe..	FamFe..	Fri. Night SmackDown (N) (Live)				WDRB News		WDR..
A&E	28	36	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		Killer Cases (N)		Killer (N) (SF)		First48
AMC	29	26	National Lampoon's European ...				National Lampoon's Christmas ...				National Lampoon's C...		
COM	45	59	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Movie
DISC	31	38	Gold Rush		Gold Rush		Gold Rush (N)		(:05) Sea Gold "Fortune's Fools" (N)				Myster..
DISN	25	29	Hailey	Hailey	★★★★ Frozen II ('19)			Hailey	Ladyb..	(:35) Kiff	Jessie		Raven
ESPN	32	44	SportsCenter		NBA	NBA Basketball					NBA Basketball		
FREE	18	40	★★★ Home Alone 2: Lost in New York					Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas					Movie
FX	40	28	(4:00) Amazing...		★★★★ Spider-Man: Far From Home ('19)						Spider-Man: Far Fro...		
HBO	201	17	(5:40) Gi..	(:35) Murder		★★★★ Skyfall ('12) Daniel Craig.					Real Time (N)		Gilded
MAX	270	73	(:10) ★★★★ Colossal ('16)				★★★★ Scary Movie			Scary Movie 2	Scary Movie 3		
NEWSNTN	20	20	Elizabeth (N)		On Balance (N)		Cuomo (N)		Dan Abrams		Banfield (N)		Cuomo
PARMT	35	41	TwoM..	TwoM..	TwoM..	TwoM..	★★★★ The Dark Knight Rises ('12) Christian Bale.						
SHOW	221	16	(:15) ★★ Mafia Mamma ('23)				Football UK (N)		Showing Up ('22) (P)				Movie
TMC	233	74	(:20) Semper Fi ('19)				Wolves of War (P)			Sweeney Todd: Demon Barber ...			
TNT	27	43	(4:30) ★★★★ The Martian			★★★ Independence Day: Resurgence ('16)					Rampage (N)		Movie
USA	26	33	(5:30) 9-..	9-1-1 "Panic"		9-1-1		9-1-1		9-1-1		9-1-1	

SATURDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	Chefs	Song	That Clip Show		Dateline NBC		SNL		WAV..
4 WTTV	4		(4:30) NFL Football			NFLP..	Rudolph		Frosty	Frosty	48 Hours (N)		CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News (N)		NBCN..	Let'sT..	That Clip Show		Dateline NBC		SNL		News
8 WISH	12		News	FamFe..	The Rookie		★★★★ Shrek 2 ('04) Mike Myers.				News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		(3:30) Football		Football	College Football LA Bowl: UCLA vs. Boise State (N) (Live)							News
11 WHAS	11	4	(3:30) Football		Football	College Football LA Bowl: UCLA vs. Boise State (N) (Live)							News
15 WKPC	13		Antiques		TimFa..	RedGr..	Kentuc..	Ky.Afi..	★★★ The Brothers Bloom ('08)				Austin
19 WXIX	10		Movie	Wheel	Jeopar..	Tip-Off	Basketball Alabama at Creighton				FOX19 (N)		Shazam
32 WLKY	5	5	(5:30) College Basketball				Rudolph		Frosty	Frosty	48 Hours (N)		News
34 WBKI	7	7	JudgeJ..	JudgeJ..	TwoM..	TwoM..	★★★★ Shrek 2 ('04) Mike Myers.				The Rookie		9-1-1
41 WDRB	8	9	Nature	Super..	RedBo..	Tip-Off	Basketball Alabama at Creighton				WDRB News		Shazam
A&E	28	36	Neighb..	Neighb..	Neighb..	Neighb..	Neighb..	Neighb..	Legends	Legends	Buddy (N)		Neighb..
AMC	29	26	(4:30) Fred Cla...		★★★★ Elf ('03) Will Ferrell.				★★★★ Elf ('03) Will Ferrell.				Movie
COM	45	59	Seinfeld	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office
DISC	31	38	Afraid		Afraid		Afraid "Bro, Hold My Fear"				Naked and Afraid		
DISN	25	29	Big City	ToySto..	★★★★ Home Alone (P)			(:50) The Naughty Nine ('23)				Big City	Big City
ESPN	32	44	(5:45) College Football						(:15) College Football				
FREE	18	40	(4:35) Dr. Seus...		(:15) ★★★★ The Santa Clause ('94)					(:25) ★★★ The Santa Clause 2 ('02)			
FX	40	28	(4:00) Star Wa...		★★★ Solo: A Star Wars Story ('18)						Rogue One: A Star W...		
HBO	201	17	(5:50) ★★★ Black Adam ('22)				★★★★ Barbie ('23) (P)				Leo Reich: (N)		Movie
MAX	270	73	★★★ Knowing ('09) Nicolas Cage.				★★★★ A Most Violent Year ('14)				(:05) Kill the Irishman		
NEWSNTN	20	20	Blue Bloods		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation		NewsN..
PARMT	35	41	(5:00) ★★★★ The Town ('10)				★★★★ The Wolf of Wall Street ('13) Leonardo DiCaprio.						
SHOW	221	16	The Collective ('23)			★★★★ Jules ('23)			Boxing David Morrell vs. Sena Agbeko (N)				
TMC	233	74	Movie	(:35) Disquiet ('23)			★★★ Phantasm ('79)			Grizzly II: Re...	(:45) Best Offer		
TNT	27	43	(5:00) ★★★★ Transformers ('07)				Wrestling: Collision (N) (Live)				★★★ Alien: Covenant		
USA	26	33	(4:35) A Bad M...		(:55) ★★★ Just Go With It ('11)					(:25) ★★★ Step Brothers ('08)			

SUNDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	Football (N)		(:15) Football Baltimore Ravens at Jacksonville Jaguars (N)						
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	60 Minutes (N)			Willie Nelson's 90th (N)				Sheldon	CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	Football (N)		(:15) Football Baltimore Ravens at Jacksonville Jaguars (N)						
8 WISH	12		News	Retire..	Sullivan's		The Chosen (N)			Whose..	News	Sports	News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	★★★★★ The Sound of Music ('65) Julie Andrews.								News
11 WHAS	11	4	World..	News	★★★★★ The Sound of Music ('65) Julie Andrews.								News
15 WKPC	13		Last/..	KeepUp	Secret-Museum		Agatha Ch (F)		Creatures		Creatures		Summ..
19 WXIX	10		(4:25) NFL Football			The OT	Krapo..	Simpso..	Burgers	Family..	FOX19 (N)		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	CBSN..	WLK..	60 Minutes (N)			Willie Nelson's 90th (N)				Sheldon	News
34 WBKI	7	7	BigBa..	BigBa..	Sullivan's		The Chosen (N)			Whose..	Good Dr		House..
41 WDRB	8	9	(4:25) NFL Football			The OT	Krapo..	Simpso..	Burgers	Family..	WDRB News		Paid
A&E	28	36	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		First48
AMC	29	26	★★★ Christmas With the Kranks				National Lampoon's Christmas ...				National Lampoon's C...		
COM	45	59	(4:45) Meet the Parents			★★ Big Daddy ('99)				★★ Billy Madison ('95)			
DISC	31	38	Homestead Rescue (N)				Homestead Rescue (N)				Homestead		Homes..
DISN	25	29	Big City	Kiff	Kiff	Prep	Shorts..	Miraculous		Marvel..	Marvel..	Hamst..	Hamst..
ESPN	32	44	(5:00) Basketball		SportCtr (N)		SportC..	E60 (N)		ESPN Films			SportC..
FREE	18	40	(:20) ★★★★ Home Alone ('90)					(:50) ★★★ Home Alone 2: Lost in New York ('92)					
FX	40	28	(4:30) Captain ...		★★★★ The Avengers ('12) Robert Downey Jr..						Archer (N) (F)		
HBO	201	17	(:55) Real Time		(:55) ★★★★ Barbie ('23)				Gilded (N) (SF)		The Gilded Age		LastW..
MAX	270	73	(:10) ★★★ Unbreakable				★★★★ Lucy ('14)			★★★★ Green Room ('15)			Movie
NEWSNTN	20	20	Blue Bloods		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation		NewsN..
PARMT	35	41	(5:00) We're the Millers		★★★ Couples Retreat ('09) Vince Vaughn.							We're the Mil...	
SHOW	221	16	Dexter		Dexter		Mayor of (N)		Travelers (SF)		(:10) The Curse		Travel..
TMC	233	74	The Match ('21) Franco Nero.				★★★ Southpaw ('15)				(:05) ★★★ Bloodsport		
TNT	27	43	(5:35) A Christmas Story		(:35) A Christmas Story Christmas					(:50) ★★★ Office Christmas Party			
USA	26	33	Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-SVU		Law-S..

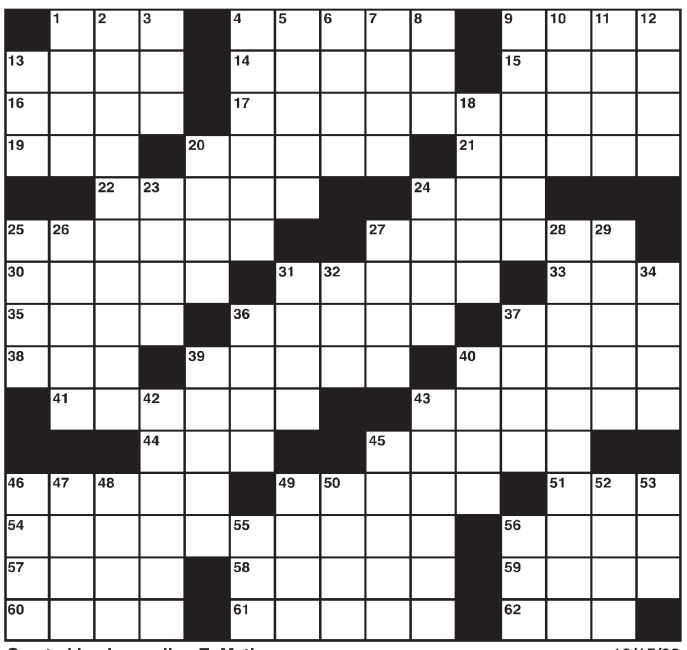
MONDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	WAV..	News	The Voice (N)				Password (N)		WAV..
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	BigBa..	Sheldon	Price Is (N)		Big Bro. (N)		NCIS "Evil Eye"		CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	The Voice (N)				Password (N)		News
8 WISH	12		News (N)		Inside..	ET (N)	Freddie Mercury: The Final Act				News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	News	Extra	Football Philadelphia Eagles at Seattle Seahawks (N)						News
11 WHAS	11	4	News	World..	ET (N)	Inside..	Football Philadelphia Eagles at Seattle Seahawks (N)						News
15 WKPC	13		Ameri..	Edition	NewsHour (N)		Kentucky (N)		25 Years (N)		Highland (N)		BBCN..
19 WXIX	10		FOX19	FOX19	Wheel	Jeopar..	LEGO Masters (N)				FOX19 (N)		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	News	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	Price Is (N)		Big Bro. (N)		NCIS "Evil Eye"		News
34 WBKI	7	7	Neighb..	House..	Sheldon	BigBa..	Freddie Mercury: The Final Act				BigBa..	Sheldon	LastM..
41 WDRB	8	9	WDR..	News	FamFe..	FamFe..	LEGO Masters (N)				WDRB News		WDR..
A&E	28	36	(5:30) ★★★ Central Intelligence				★★★★ 21 Jump Street ('12) Jonah Hill.				The Equalizer		
AMC	29	26	★★★ Four Christmases ('08)				★★★★ Elf ('03) Will Ferrell.				★★★★ Elf ('03)		
COM	45	59	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	SouthP..
DISC	31	38	Contraband		Contraband		Contraband		Contraband (N)		Caught!	Caught!	Caught!
DISN	25	29	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Zombies 2 ('20)			Marvel..	Ladyb..	Ladyb..	Villains
ESPN	32	44	Monday Night (N) (Live)				Football Philadelphia Eagles at Seattle Seahawks (N)						Postga..
FREE	18	40	(:20) ★★★★ Frozen ('13) Kristen Bell.					(:50) ★★★★ Frozen II ('19) Kristen Bell.					700Club
FX	40	28	(5:00) ★★★★ Iron Man ('08)				★★★ Captain Marvel ('19) Brie Larson.				Captain Mar...		
HBO	201	17	(:15) ★★★ Watchmen ('09) Billy Crudup.						Murder (N) (F)		(:55) Gilded		Murder
MAX	270	73	(:15) ★★★ Jennifer's Body ('09)				★★★★ First Reformed			(:55) ★★★★ Locke ('13)			Movie
NEWSNTN	20	20	Elizabeth (N)		On Balance (N)		Cuomo (N)		Dan Abrams		Banfield (N)		Cuomo
PARMT	35	41	(4:00) ★★★★★ Titanic ('97)				★★★★★ Forrest Gump ('94) Robin Wright, Tom Hanks.						
SHOW	221	16	Caine Mutiny Court-Martial				Curse	(:45) Fellow Travelers			★★★★ American Hustle		
TMC	233	74	(:15) ★★★★ Inside Llewyn Davis				★★★★★ Almost Famous				(:05) ★★★★ Private Parts		
TNT	27	43	(5:30) Office Christmas ...			(:45) ★★★★★ A Christmas Story				Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead ...			
USA	26	33	Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire		WWE Monday Night RAW (N) (Live)						Bar (N)

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

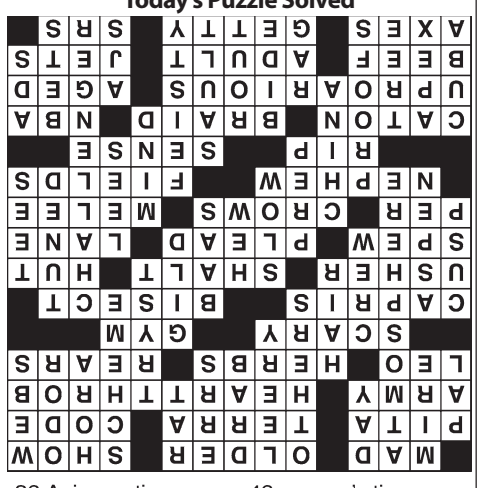
ACROSS
1 Insane
4 Not as modern
9 Exhibit
13 Stuffed bread
14 __ firma; dry land
15 Morse's creation
16 Fighting force
17 Teen idol
19 Tolstoy or Durocher
20 Flavor enhancers
21 Fannies
22 Nightmarish
24 Fitness center
25 Women's summer pants
27 Halve
30 Theater worker
31 Commandment verb
33 Shack
35 Gush forth
36 Beg
37 Path
38 Part of MPH
39 Cornfield pests
40 Free-for-all
41 Andy, to Bee
43 "Strawberry __ Forever"
44 __ off; swindle
45 Good judgment
46 "__ a Hot Tin Roof"
49 Intertwined hair
51 Org. for Suns & Spurs
54 Very funny
56 Like fine wine
57 Complaint
58 Big person
59 New York team
60 Wood splitters
61 J. Paul or Estelle
62 Yrbk. section

DOWN
1 Swampy ground
2 Ecologist's concern
3 Period of light
4 "Do unto __…"
5 Suspicious
6 Dull in color
7 Screws up
8 Traitor
9 Plot
10 Circle dance
11 Smell
12 Spider creations
13 Crony
18 Lovers' meeting
20 Head covering
23 Oaring team
24 Coat with gold
25 Part of a tooth
26 Colorado resort
27 Bleats
28 Champ's rival
29 Adjusted a grand
31 Sluggish
32 Chop down
34 Casual shirts
36 Get ready, for short
37 Bruce & Spike
39 Asian nation
40 Obey
42 Checks for typos, for short
43 Quick to quarrel
45 __ Ste. Marie
46 Desi's birthplace
47 Pinnacle
48 Shade provider
49 __ one's time; wait
50 Overwhelming defeat
52 Wagers
53 Newspaper section
55 Dustcloth
56 Foyt & others



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 12/15/23

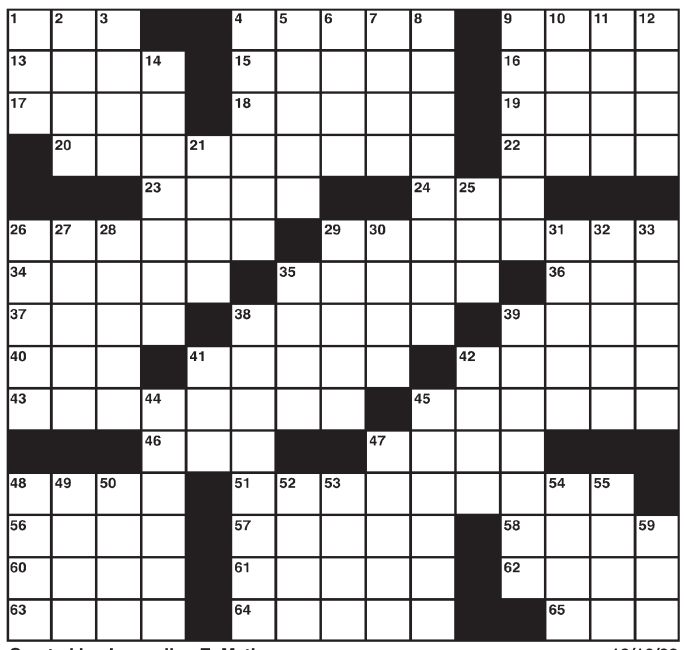
Today's Puzzle Solved



THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS
1 "__ Be There"; Jackson 5 hit
4 Part of spring
9 Suffix for accept or adapt
13 __ the riot act to; bawled out
15 Singer Jim
16 Precipitation
17 Prince George's mum
18 Regulations
19 __ on; trampled
20 Brings disgrace to
22 Egg producers
23 Relaxation
24 Outback bird
26 Shows contempt for
29 Pet birds
34 Oafish fellows
35 Seamstress
36 Tattletale
37 Play divisions
38 __ up; amassed
39 Biblical wise men
40 Dove's call
41 Seaside birds
42 Dissuade
43 Leaping mammal
45 Sellers & O'Toole
46 Major network
47 White as a sheet
48 Cab competitor
51 Very funny
56 Roll along the runway
57 Over
58 VW forerunners
60 Fortas & Beame
61 Playing card
62 Bodies of water
63 Corned beef concoction
64 Strain
65 Genetic code letters

DOWN
1 Anger
2 Starring role
3 Part of the musical scale
4 Down's opposite, in crosswords
5 Small fruit
6 Chocolate/ caramel candy
7 Cake decorator
8 Diminished
9 19th-century U.S. president
10 Uncovered
11 Jungle beast
12 Loose __; unfinished business
14 Forsakes
21 __ Christian Andersen
25 Spoil
26 Not taut
27 Comforting drink
28 Walk __; leave behind
29 Stringed instrument
30 Leaves speechless
31 Furious
32 Rarin' to go
33 Begins to wake
35 Storage tower
38 Buy
39 Shooting stars
41 Chitchat
42 Supermarket section
44 Tastelessly showy
45 Ma or pa
47 Concrete layer
48 Home of the Jazz
49 "Ali __ and the Forty Thieves"
50 Old flames
52 Mountain goat
53 Reason to wed
54 Not new
55 Man's nickname
59 Neighbor of Mex.



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 12/16/23

Today's Puzzle Solved

Illness interferes with holiday plans

AMY DICKINSON
ASK AMY

Dear Amy: Last year, we had my husband's daughter, her husband and their four children come and stay with us for a couple of weeks around Christmas.

When they arrived, the husband was clearly sick: coughing, sneezing, etc.

Consequently, I became sick (I have severe COPD) and had to miss our annual Christmas Eve celebration as a result.

Here's my question: Can I ask my daughter-in-law not to come here when anyone in the family is sick?

I feel this should be common sense but apparently it is not.

I don't want to offend anyone, but when my health is compromised, I feel the added stress.

My husband and I are not young.

They are currently planning their trip, and I am worried.

Can you help?

— Worried

Dear Worried: You should not need my help to inspire you to take care of your own health, but when it comes to extended family members, it is vital to clarify your needs and boundaries because their understanding and cooperation are essential.

It might help if you approached this problem understanding that parents with many children often deal with illness as a more or less continuous issue.

One or more family members is either getting sick, currently sick or recovering from their latest round of cold/flu.

However, the experience of the pandemic should have sensitized all of us to the important needs of people whose health is compromised (like you) or who would simply like to avoid illness (everyone else) — especially during the winter months.

So yes, you should tell these family members, "This year, please make sure that no one is showing any signs of illness before your trip. I'll have masks on hand in case anyone picks up a bug along the way. Your dad and I are both vulnerable. We really need to safeguard our health."

Commonsense measures such as mask-wearing (for any ill person and also for you) and diligent handwashing could help to reduce the risk for everyone.

Retirement looms while boyfriend plans to move

AMY DICKINSON
ASK AMY

Dear Amy: My boyfriend/significant other of 13 years is six years older than me. He wants to retire in a year or two and move more than 200 miles away from the town where we both currently live.

I have my own home, family and job in my hometown. I've lived here for my entire life.

My SO and I have no plans to marry or live together.

Should we try a long-distance relationship or break up now because our future plans don't seem to include the other?

— Perplexed in the Midwest

Dear Perplexed: I sense in the subtext of your question that you might feel quite stung by what you perceive as your significant other's choice not only to leave town but to leave you. So yes, you could preempt this still far-off choice by preparing to break up, or you could at least attempt a long-distance relationship by trying to visit one another on a loose schedule. If he lands in a nice spot, you might see this as each of you having something of a second home: a second destination to travel to when you want to. Most important, however, is the need for each of you to communicate — honestly and frankly — about your future plans both as individuals and as a couple.

Dear Amy: My husband and I have been married for several years. We're really happy, with successful careers, a house we enjoy and two dogs we love.

We honestly love our lives and are not sure about having children. We're not ruling it out, but we're also not ruling it in. Lately, my mother has been starting to pressure us. This started out subtly, but then the pressure seemed to grow until over Thanksgiving, when she actually said, out loud, "You owe me grandchildren." I was upset and have become more upset over time. Can she possibly believe that? What is the best way to react?

— Childfree

Dear Childfree: I can well imagine how this statement might have struck you. At this point, because you continue to ruminate on it, you should find a way to express your concern to your mother.

I suggest writing down your thoughts and either sending her a letter or email, or just using your written down thoughts as a blueprint for a conversation. To clarify what you already know: You do not owe it to anyone to have children. You could ask your mother, "Do you really believe that I owe you grandchildren?" She might respond that no — she just really wants grandchildren.

She might believe that because she gave everything to you as you were growing up, that now it's time for her to collect. Or maybe a lot of her friends are now experiencing grandparenthood and she wants that, too.

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ASTROLOGY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Now could be the time to take advantage of potentially enhanced popularity or attractiveness. If your aim is to make someone more loving, it's a sign to improve your inner self-validation. Enjoy some outings or social events.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You can generate goodwill through generosity. When everything goes your way, you could be more willing to share your bounty with others. A little bird may bring you some crucial insights or valuable information.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Your future plans could be locked in place early in the day while everyone is more clear-headed, and the details can be noted to avoid any disputes or confusion. Learn to both give love and be emotionally self-sufficient.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You can keep your humor in play and lighten the mood by appreciating the ridiculous. Do your best to avoid exaggerating serious topics. Focus your attention if there is work to complete or deadlines to meet.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Some days it may be better to listen quietly rather than speak. Try not to let a minor dispute undermine a friendship. If you take a shopping trip, you could be tempted to spend more recklessly and end up dissatisfied.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You may need to balance your time between your partner, friends, family, and yourself. Try not to be too quick to criticize someone else if things go awry or lose track of who you are and what you enjoy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Spirits may be on the rise, but some scheduled activities might not be as much fun as initially anticipated. Just being there if someone needs a companion or a shoulder to cry on can be an excellent way to express your affection.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You might lean toward the practical rather than the strictly luxurious or make this the time to shop for the truly extraordinary. Take advantage of an opportunity to have a frank discussion that may be needed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Do what you can to put issues aside during the holiday season and choose to play nicely and show up when needed. Share the love now, and then do what you can to resolve issues later.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Every day and in many ways, you can get better and better. Things you say could be shared with others so be sure to do your best to broadcast wisdom and authenticity. Your generosity might remind someone to remain tolerant.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You can wear your best manners proudly and remain accommodating as possible. Try not to let someone talk you into buying something of lesser quality or durability. Family gatherings may be just what you need.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Do your best in a social setting; you may say or do something that could be misinterpreted. However, hiding your doubts or pretending to be interested when you are not might cause a misunderstanding.

ASTROLOGY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Put your charm to work on your behalf. You can brighten up a room with a sincere smile. Your throttle could be set to full steam ahead when there is a party to attend, something to learn or someone new to meet.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Unexpected messages could change your future plans for the better. You might have a stroke of genius that can solve one of your dilemmas. Someone may repay a favor in a way that makes you believe in luck.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Just when you feel you may succumb to indifference, your closest friends or loved ones could charm you into saying yes. Your doubts might be unfounded so ask for advice from your trusted or knowledgeable friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Whether it is baked goods, a home-cooked meal or a handmade gift, this could be the season where your love can be expressed through your creativity and hobbies. You may feel the urge to put your feelings into your actions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You may be enthusiastic about get-togethers and might be willing to work a little harder to make sure everything runs smoothly. You could be more imaginative and creative when it comes to moving your plans across the finish line.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — A minor spat or disagreement could eventually give way to harmony if you can remain calm and move on. You may want to share your daydreams or wishes with someone and might be surprised by their reaction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Do your best to avoid worrying about what might happen. Affectionate ties and romance can flourish if you are willing to give it a chance. Finding items of refinement and elegance could please your loved ones.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You could bask in a romantic glow. When people are in a good mood, it's easier to have an enjoyable time. You might be invited to attend some community events or spend some free time with your coworkers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You may have a chip on your shoulder right now. Focus on having fun and being more authentic whenever possible. Don't fake a feeling to try to manipulate a situation, be straight up about your expectations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Family traditions you may think are silly can become more important when you are far away. Learning all the stories could give you something unique to pass down. A meaningful life will always entail more than just work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Misunderstandings can make you doubt yourself or cause mistakes. You may be having second thoughts something that is already a done deal. Try not to act on a passing fear or hesitation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Many holiday rituals come from back when our ancestors watched the days become shorter and feared the sun may never return. We know that spring will return, but the traditions can still be comforting during the shorter days of winter.

POST

FROM **PAGE B1**

Deutscher was eighth in the 50 freestyle in 44.58 and ninth in the 100 freestyle in 1:39.67.

Southwestern's girls defeated New Washington 66-7 and South Ripley 62-16 while falling to Charlestown 79-59. Shawe's boys beat Southwestern 22-12 and lost 71-15 to Charlestown and 55-17 to South Ripley. Southwestern's boys also lost 78-6 to Charlestown and 60-10 to South Ripley.

Southwestern and Shawe compete at Floyd Central on Saturday. The Rebels will then have the next two weeks off over Christmas break before returning to action on Jan. 4.

Rozner 10-under 62 to open title defense at Mauritius Open

BEL-OMBRE, Mauritius — French golfer Antoine Rozner made a hot start to his title defense at the Mauritius Open by shooting 10-under 62 to take a one-stroke lead after the first round of the European tour event on Thursday.

Starting at No. 10, the 128th-ranked Rozner had five birdies and an eagle in shooting 29 in his first nine holes before making four birdies in his next five holes, leaving him in sight of a rare 59.

However, he bogeyed two of his last four holes in a closing stretch that still included a 10th birdie of his round, which was the lowest of his career on the European tour and a course record at La Réserve Golf Links.

"It was unbelievable — didn't miss a shot, holed everything I had, holed a bunker shot. Literally everything went my way," said Rozner, who won by five strokes last year.

"After the birdie at No. 5, I really thought about shooting 59 but a bad tee shot at No. 6 cost me that magic number."

Paul Waring of England shot a bogey-free 63 and was alone in second place, two strokes ahead of Jayden Schaper of South Africa (65).

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General Admission:
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Annual Pass- Family (4 people): $450.00
Each Additional: $110.00
Discount Card- 20 Passes: $85.00
Annual Senior Pass (65 and older): $100.00
Employee Pass $100.00 per family member
Water Aerobics: $5.00 daily fee
Water Aerobics monthly pass $35.00 (3 separate months of classes, 16 classes per month); Season pass $85.00 (3 months) No refunds or make updates due to inclement weather.
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LEGAL

JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT CLAIMS
TO BE PAID
DECEMBER 20, 2023
Indiana Judges Assoc. $100.00
Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility $4050.00
Southwest IN Regional Youth Village $13,200.00
Boonie's Water Conditioning $27.00
The Office Shop $126.26
Pitney Bowes $137.00
Matthew Bender $331.31
TOTAL $17,971.57
COURT CLAIMS
TO BE PAID
DECEMBER 20, 2023
Devon M. Sharpe $391.15
Jennifer Joas $4,662.11
Mary Beth Mock $6,157.47
James Spencer $3,143.66
Alcorn, Sage, Schwartz & Magrath $14,410.46
Jason Judd $3,815.46
The Record Xchange $3,005.00
Patricia Torline $261.00
Thompson Stidham Reporting $284.25
Adams Law Office $7,130.95
Tyler Miller $6,130.95
Houston, Thompson, & Lewis PC $4,904.76
Della Swincher $4,904.76
Total: $59,001.53
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LEGAL

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
SS:
IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT
ESTATE NUMBER: 39C01-2310-EU-000075
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF
GLENN D. MURPHY, DECEASED.
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA
In the matter of the Estate of Glenn D. Murphy, deceased.
Estate Number: 39C01-2310-EU-000075
Notice is hereby given that Shelly Murphy Smith was on October 24, 2023, appointed personal representative of the estate of Glenn D. Murphy, deceased, who died on August 14, 2023.
All persons having claims against said estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Madison, Indiana, this 11/22/23
/s/ Tabatha Eblen
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF JEFFERSON COUNTY
Prepared by:
James H. Drew, II Atty. #37954-69
Moore Law, LLC
2 West Pearl Street
Batesville, Indiana 47006
(812) 932-1227
Filed: 11/21/2023 4:14 PM
Jefferson Circuit Court
Jefferson County, Indiana
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LEGAL

JEFFERSON SUPERIOR COURT CLAIMS
TO BE PAID 12/20/2023
THE OFFICE SHOP $3,392.95
INDIANA PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES $375.00
BOONIE'S WATER $86.25
INDIANA JUDGES ASSOCIATION $300.00
LUCINDA WOODWARD $1,475.00
TOTAL: $5,629.20
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LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE
The Ryker's Ridge Water Company will elect three (3) members to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting on January 22, 2024. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Ryker's Ridge Firehouse located at 2834 N Ryker's Ridge Road, Madison, IN. If you are interested in being a candidate for the board please contact the company office at 812-273-1851 before 3:00 p.m. on January 8, 2024, and attend the annual meeting.
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MADISON- CHATEAU MANOR - Quiet hilltop neighborhood with sidewalks and shade trees at corner of Cragmont and Mouser. Spacious 2BR Apartments with renovated kitchen and bathroom, dishwasher, washer/dryer hookup, Abundant closet space and deck. Rent $627- $675. Deposit $550. References required. Call (812)273-3375

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Rent- 550.00
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Arizona, Kansas, Purdue lead AP Top 25

BY DAVE SKRETTA
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Arizona strengthened its place atop The Associated Press Top 25 men's college basketball poll Monday, setting up a showdown this weekend against Purdue, the former No. 1 team in the nation.

The Wildcats earned all but one first-place vote from a panel of 63 voters, no doubt impressing them with their 98-73 win over the No. 23 Badgers. They picked up three first-place votes to remain atop the poll for the second straight week, while Kansas remained at No. 2 and Purdue — which Arizona had supplanted at No. 1 — moved up one spot to third after wins over Iowa and Alabama.

The Wildcats (8-0) play the Boilermakers (9-1) on Saturday in Indianapolis.

"We spend a lot of time talking about Arizona basketball legacy," Arizona coach Tommy Lloyd said over the weekend, "and this group right now, we're in the sun. The sun is shining on us right now."

Houston received the only No. 1 vote that didn't go to the Wildcats but still dropped one spot to fourth. UConn remained at No. 5 after beating ninth-ranked North Carolina and Arkansas-Pine Bluff last week.

Baylor again gave the Big 12 half of the top six teams in the country. The Bears were followed at No. 6 by Marquette, Creighton, the Tar Heels and Gonzaga, which fell three spots to No. 10 after its 78-73 loss to Washington.

"We've got a long season. Big games coming up," said Bulldogs forward Anton Watson, whose team will play fifth-ranked UConn on Friday night in Seattle. "I don't think one loss, two losses, is going to determine a season. We all have that mindset."

While there was little movement within the top 10 this week, there were some wild swings within the rest of the Top 25.

Oklahoma made one of the biggest jumps, climbing eight spots to No. 11 after wins over Providence and Arkansas. The unbeaten Sooners were followed by Tennessee, which climbed five spots, and undefeated Clemson, which moved up No. 11 after beating South Carolina and TCU to remain one of the seven teams with perfect records left in Division I basketball.

Kentucky moved up two spots to No. 14 while Florida Atlantic fell four spots to No. 15 after its loss to Illinois.

The Illini slotted in right behind the Owls, while Colorado State, BYU, Texas and James Madison round out the top 20. Duke was at No. 21, followed by Virginia, Wisconsin, Miami and Northwestern at No. 25. The Wildcats (7-1) are ranked for the second straight season but only the seventh time since the 1968-69 season.

"I hear about it at home. My daughter is probably the biggest one that was mad that we didn't get ranked last week. She's the one that has been yelling and screaming that we need to be in the Top 25," said Northwestern coach Chris Collins, whose team is off to its best eight-game start since the 2015-16 season. "Those are all nice rewards for a team that is playing hard and working hard, but we're not worried about that. Our whole focus right now is winning basketball games."

RISING AND FALLING

The No. 11 Sooners play Green Bay this week before a high-profile matchup with the ninth-ranked Tar Heels next week. No. 13 Clemson also will have a chance to keep climbing when it visits Memphis — which is receiving votes — on Saturday.

Miami fell nine spots to No. 24 after its 90-63 loss to Colorado, which was almost enough to get the Buffalos ranked; they were the first team outside the Top 25. Texas fell seven spots after losing to Marquette and beating Houston Christian.

IN AND OUT

Virginia returned to the poll at No. 22 after being ranked for a week last month. Northwestern made its Top 25 season debut.

Texas A&M dropped out of the poll after losing to Memphis on Sunday. San Diego State also fell out after losing to Grand Canyon, which has never been ranked but received one vote for No. 25 this week.

CONFERENCE WATCH

The Big 12 not only has three of the top six teams but six in the Top 25, including league newcomers Houston (No. 4) and BYU (No. 18) and soon-to-depart Oklahoma (No. 11) and Texas (No. 19). The ACC has five teams in the Top 25 and the Big East and Big Ten have four apiece, though the Big East has three of the top eight in UConn (No. 5), Marquette (No. 7) and Creighton (No. 8).

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENTS

Lanier Mansion

Free First Responders

Free tours of the Lanier Mansion State Historic Site will be offered to first responders and their immediate family Saturday, Dec. 16, and Sunday, Dec. 17, as way of showing gratitude. Tours will start daily at 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Visitor Center, 601 First St.

FUNDRAISERS

Book Sale

Madison-Jefferson County Public Library

420 West Main St, Madison

Saturday, Dec. 16

The Friends of the Library Holiday Book Sale will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Madison-Jefferson County Public Library, 420 West Main St., Madison

FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

Salvation Army Food Bank

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

Noon to 1 p.m.

331 East Main St., Madison

A food giveaway at the red door on east side of building. Bring your own bags. For more information, call 812-265-2157.

House of Hope Food Pantry

100 East Second St., Madison

Tuesdays — 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Fridays — 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

A food giveaway and distribution at the Jefferson County House of Hope Food Pantry in downtown Madison. Please arrive at the pantry 15 minutes prior to closing to be served.

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTIONS

Jesus Clothes Closet

Trinity Methodist Church, Madison

Mondays — 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Jesus Clothes Closet at Trinity Methodist Church, 412 W. Main St., will distribute free clothing for those in need each Monday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more info call 812-866-4843.

SENIOR EVENTS

Madison Senior Citizens Center

208 West Main Street

Senior Meals

Lifetime Resources will be providing congregate meals again at the Madison Senior Center starting in November on Tuesday and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Suggested donation is $6 and there will be a trial run on Oct 24.

Game Days

The Madison Senior Citizens Center hosts weekly card days and Bingo at the Senior Citizens Center in downtown Madison. The schedule includes Euchre on Mondays and Thursdays from noon until 10 games are completed and Bingo on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The games are free and open to senior citizens.

HANOVER SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

Hanover Park Community Center

Exercising

The Hanover Senior Citizens Program is offering free exercising at the Hanover Park Community Center on Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Lunch

The Hanover Senior Citizens Program is serving lunch at noon on Wednesdays and Fridays at the Hanover Park Community Center. Cost is $5 and RSVP is required by calling 812-498-2894.

www.madisoncourier.com

LEGAL

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
SS:
IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NUMBER: 39C01-2309-JC-000031
IN THE MATTER OF:
MC - DOB 6/17/2013
A CHILD ALLEGED TO BE A CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES
AND
KATHRYN IPOCK AKA CAIN (MOTHER)

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES HEARING

TO: Kathryn Ipock aka Cain
Whereabouts unknown

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above noted parent whose whereabouts are unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Services has filed its Verified Petition Alleging the child to be in Need of Services, in accordance with I.C. 31-34-9-3, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with the Court.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Judge of the Jefferson Circuit Court, 300 East Main Street, Madison, IN 47250-3537 - 812-265-8930 for a(n) Initial/Fact Finding Hearing on 2/1/2024 at 2:00 PM.

At said hearing, the Court will consider the Petition and evidence thereon and will render its decision as to whether the above named minor child is child in need of services and shall enter adjudication accordingly. Your failure to appear after lawful notice will be deemed as your default and waiver to be present at said hearing.

UPON ENTRY OF SAID ADJUDICATION, A DISPOSITIONAL HEARING will be held in which the Court will consider (1) Alternatives for the care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; (2) The necessity, nature, and extent of your participation in the program of care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; and (3) Your financial responsibility for any services provided for the parent, guardian or custodian of the child including child support.

YOU MUST RESPOND by appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, an adjudication on said petition, judgment by default may be entered against you, or the court may proceed in your absence, without further notice.

12/1/2023
Tabatha Eblen
Clerk
Michelle Hicks, #22997-53
Attorney, Indiana Department of Child Services

hspaxlp

LEGAL

MDK # 23-026851
STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT
) SS:
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)
CAUSE NO. 39C01-2311-MF-000949
PNC Bank, National Association
Plaintiff,
vs.
James F. Shuck, AKA James Shuck, et al.
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SUIT SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO: The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Jennifer Shuck AKA Jennifer Watson AKA Jennifer Zirkoe AKA Jennifer Rebecca Zirkle AKA Jennifer Rebecca Watson AKA J. Shuck, and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of Jennifer Shuck AKA Jennifer Watson AKA Jennifer Zirkoe AKA Jennifer Rebecca Zirkle AKA Jennifer Rebecca Watson AKA J. Shuck:

BE IT KNOWN, that PNC Bank, National Association, the above-named Plaintiff, by its attorney, Nicholas M. Smith, has filed in the office of the Clerk of the Jefferson Circuit Court its Complaint against Defendant The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Jennifer Shuck AKA Jennifer Watson AKA Jennifer Zirkoe AKA Jennifer Rebecca Zirkle AKA Jennifer Rebecca Watson AKA J. Shuck, and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of Jennifer Shuck AKA Jennifer Watson AKA Jennifer Zirkoe AKA Jennifer Rebecca Zirkle AKA Jennifer Rebecca Watson AKA J. Shuck, and the said Plaintiff having also filed in said Clerk's office the affidavit of a competent person showing that the residence and whereabouts of the Defendant, The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Jennifer Shuck AKA Jennifer Watson AKA Jennifer Zirkoe AKA Jennifer Rebecca Zirkle AKA Jennifer Rebecca Watson AKA J. Shuck, and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of Jennifer Shuck AKA Jennifer Watson AKA Jennifer Zirkoe AKA Jennifer Rebecca Zirkle AKA Jennifer Rebecca Watson AKA J. Shuck, upon diligent inquiry is unknown, and that said cause of action is for default on the promissory note and to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate in Jefferson County, State of Indiana, to wit:

Lot No. Nine (9) in Beeler's Addition East to Kent, see Plat Book 1, Page 39, in the Recorder's Office of Jefferson County, Indiana.
commonly known as 7825 West Kent Sr 256, Madison, IN 47250.

NOW, THEREFORE, said Defendant is hereby notified of the filing and pendency of said Complaint against them and that unless they appear and answer or otherwise defend thereto within thirty (30) days after the last notice of this action is published, judgment by default may be entered against said Defendant for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated Clerk, Jefferson Circuit Court
Nicholas M. Smith (31800-15)
Stephanie A. Reinhart (25071-06)
J. Dustin Smith (29493-06)
Chris Wiley (26936-10)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC
P.O. Box 165028
Columbus OH 43216-5028
Telephone: 614-220-5611
Facsimile: 614-220-5613
Email: sef-nms@manleydeas.com

hspaxlp

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED JENNINGS NORTHWEST REGIONAL UTILITIES

Customers and other interested parties are hereby notified that Ordinance No. 2023-3 was introduced at a meeting by JNRU Board, held on November 15th, 2023. A public hearing of the District will be held regarding the ordinance at 5:00 p.m., local time, on December 20th, 2023, at JNRU – 3847 E Country Manor St North Vernon, IN 47265. The Board will convene and may consider the adoption of said ordinance at its meeting being held at the same time and place. The schedule of such rates set forth in Ordinance No. 2023-3:

Schedule of Water Monthly Rates and Charges

A. BASE FEE CHARGE
This charge is billed monthly to every customer, regardless of the volume used.
Base Charge $16.50

B. VOLUMETRIC CHARGE
This charge is billed based on volume used. It is measured in gallons and the rate is based on 1,000 gallons.
Volumetric/Flow Charge $15.40

Schedule of Sewer Monthly Rates and Charges

C. BASE FEE CHARGE
This charge is billed monthly to every customer, regardless of the volume used.
Base Charge $11.20

D. VOLUMETRIC CHARGE
This charge is billed based on volume used. It is measured in gallons and the rate is based on 1,000 gallons.
Volumetric/Flow Charge $12.80

hspaxlp

STONER FAMILY AUCTION
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH 10:00AM
611 S. GRANGE HALL RD, HANOVER, IN

70 + pcs of furniture; (2)BR sets; Oak DR set; Patio set; Several antique tables; Walnut dresser; Oak gentleman's chest; Rockers; Desks; LR suite; More 8'utility trailer; Misc. tools; Ladders; Lots of kitchen & glassware; Angel collection; Thomas Kincade art; Children's books; Roy Rogers & Gene Autry books; Elvis scrapbook; Vintage ampliphiers; Toys; Madison prints; Upright freezer; Side by side fridge; Box lots; much, much more.
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Seeking, INCUMBENT CHIEF OF POLICE

Incumbent serves as Chief of the Police Department, responsible for managing the operations and activities of the Madison Police Department to provide leadership and direction necessary to enable members of the Department to give the highest level of law enforcement services to the community.

To Apply:

Submit the resumes and the Application for Employment at //Madison-in.gov/employment or you can email the full application and resume to jarmstrong@madison-in.gov.

Applications along with a resume will be accepted until December 17, 2023, at 12:00 a.m.

REUSE THE NEWS

Throw newspaper into the composting bin and use shredded bits as a compostable alternative for lining outdoor flower beds.

LEGAL NOTICE

2023 ABATEMENT REPORT

COMPANY NAME	ADDRESS	UNIT	YEARS	REAL ESTATE	PERSONAL PROPERTY	TOTAL RECEIVED
GROTE INDUSTRIES LLC	2600 LANIER DR, MADISON	CITY	RESOLUTION 7-2011 (7 YEARS) RESOLUTION 5-2018 (7 YEARS)		$1,610,720.00	$1,610,720.00
US PREMIER TUBE MILLS LLC	2971 MICHIGAN RD	CITY	RESOLUTION 70-2016 (7 YEARS)		$281,810.00	$281,810.00
VEHICLE SERVICE GROUP LLC	2700 LANIER DR	CITY	RESOLUTION 64-2018		$595,580.00	$595,580.00
Trilogy FSC Investers LLC	120 Presbyterian Ave	City	Resolution 71-2015 (10 Years)	$1,134,210.00		$1,134,210.00
Riverside Tower	1001 W Second St	City	Resolution 58-2018 (10 Years)	$4,085,600.00		$4,085,600.00
Cotton Mill Land Owner LLC	108 Saint Michaels Ave	City	Resolution 2020-12 (10 Years)	$8,090,100.00		$8,090,100.00
Cotton Mill Land Owner LLC	108 Saint Michaels Ave	City	Resolution 2020-12 (10 Years)	$1,980.00		$1,980.00
Totals				$13,311,890.00	$2,488,110.00	$15,800,000.00

hspaxlp

ANALYSIS

AFC up for grabs with 4 potential division races coming down to final week

BY ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

On Football analyzes the biggest topics in the NFL from week to week. For more On Football analysis, head here.

The AFC is up for grabs with four weeks remaining in the regular season.

Three of the conference's four division leaders lost in Week 14, tightening the playoff picture and keeping the race for the No. 1 seed wide open.

Only the AFC North-leading Baltimore Ravens (10-3) earned a win and barely. They escaped with an overtime victory over the Rams on a walk-off punt return.

Lamar Jackson and the Ravens have the inside track to secure a first-round bye and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. But they have a difficult schedule down the stretch, starting with a trip to Jacksonville to face the AFC South-leading Jaguars (8-5) this Sunday night.

The Ravens then visit NFC-leading San Francisco (10-3) on Christmas night and host AFC East-leading Miami (9-4) and Pittsburgh (7-6) to close out the season.

If they falter, the Cleveland Browns (8-5) are closing in. With veteran Joe Flacco stepping up and providing stability at quarterback, the Browns still have a chance to win the division.

If they win out and the Ravens go 2-2 with one loss to the Steelers or both losses to the 49ers and Jaguars, the Browns will win their first division title since 1989.

Miami's collapse on Monday night against the Titans opened the door for Buffalo to have a chance at winning its fourth straight AFC East title.

The division will come down to Week 18 when the Bills (7-6) visit the Dolphins if Buffalo closes the gap to one game over the next three weeks. The Bills host Dallas (10-3), visit the Chargers (5-8) and host the Patriots (3-10). The Dolphins host the Jets (5-8) and Cowboys before visiting Baltimore. The Bills won the first meeting so they'd have a chance to sweep the season series and take first place.

The Jaguars have dropped two in a row to allow Houston (7-6) and Indianapolis (7-6) to stay close, but they still have a strong chance to repeat in the South. Those odds will shrink if they don't upset Baltimore this week.

Jacksonville's final three games are a bit easier. The Jaguars visit Tampa Bay (6-7), host Carolina (1-12) and finish at Tennessee (5-8).

The biggest surprise in the AFC is Kansas City's grip on the West is loosening. The Chiefs (8-5) have lost two in a row while the Broncos (7-6) have won six of seven to make things interesting.

If Denver wins out and the Chiefs lose to either the Raiders or Chargers, the Broncos would end Kansas City's seven-year run of division dominance.

As for the wild-card race, six AFC teams are tied at 7-6 battling for the last two of three spots.

PHILLY BLUES

The road back to the Super Bowl for the Eagles has suddenly hit a detour. Consecutive lopsided losses to the 49ers and Cowboys have exposed Philadelphia's flaws. A once-dynamic offense is struggling and the defense can't stop anybody.

But help is on the way. The schedule gets easier.

The Eagles (10-3) face four losing teams to close out the season and would overtake Dallas to win the NFC East if they win out.

First up is a trip to Seattle (6-7) next Monday night. Then, it's Tommy DeVito and the Giants (5-8) twice in three weeks sandwiched around a road game against the Cardinals (3-10).

Jalen Hurts is 26-5 since the start of the 2022 season, but fickle fans are back to questioning his ability to be a franchise QB. Critics have already turned on coach Nick Sirianni, who led the team to 10-1 starts two straight seasons.

Before losing 42-19 to San Francisco and 33-13 to Dallas, the Eagles rallied to beat the Chiefs on the road and the Bills in overtime in a six-day span.

Then they lost to the two best teams in the NFL right now. The Eagles must improve on both sides of the ball to compete for the Super Bowl, but they can't be counted out after two terrible games.

BACKUP HEROES

DeVito has become an overnight sensation in New York after leading the Giants (5-8) to three straight wins and giving them an opportunity to stay in the playoff race at one game behind several 6-7 teams.

His agent, Sean Stellato, went viral Monday night for wearing a black pinstripe suit with a black hat on the sideline before DeVito led the Giants to a comeback win over Green Bay.

Flacco, a Super Bowl MVP a decade ago, came off his couch to help the Browns stay competitive and become Cleveland's fourth starting QB this season.

Jake Browning has stepped in for Joe Burrow and lifted the Bengals back in to the playoff race with impressive performances in wins over Jacksonville and Indianapolis.

Even Zach Wilson returned from another benching to have perhaps the best game of his career in the Jets' convincing win over Houston.

In a year where seven starting QBs have sustained significant season-ending injuries, several teams are counting on backups to keep them in playoff contention.

Colts still in playoff contention despite blowout loss to end 4-game win streak

BY MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts skirted around the edge during their four-game winning streak.

On Sunday, they danced right off of it.

Cincinnati exploited Indy's aggressive pass rush with three long screen passes, the Colts' ground game struggled again, and even the special teams unit that played so well one week earlier broke down in a 34-14 loss.

On Monday, the embarrassed Colts (7-6) were already back at work, searching for a quick fix.

"We opened Pandora's box (Sunday) for sure with the screen game," two-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle DeForest Buckner said after the Bengals used 54- and 46-yard passes to fuel their first two touchdown drives. "We've got to go to the tape, we've got to look at our fits, and how we can turn the screens back inside to the guys pursuing the ball. We've got to put that fire out quick."

Indy's most lopsided loss of the season did not significantly damage its playoff hopes.

The Colts (7-6) still sit in the AFC's seventh and final playoff spot, still trail AFC South-leading Jacksonville by one game and still can improve their postseason chances by protecting their home field Saturday against the low-scoring Pittsburgh Steelers.

But the Cincinnati game was alarming for a team that spent the previous month celebrating the different ways it used to win games.

The Colts returned two interceptions for touchdowns to topple Carolina and used a late interception and late field goal to put away the Patriots. It took a surprise fourth-and-1 call and a late strip-sack to beat the Buccaneers and two nifty pass plays late in overtime to rally against Tennessee.

On Sunday, they never had a chance to make a late, game-changing play.

They lost the turnover battle. They had a touchdown nullified by a penalty. Matt Gay missed a field goal and an extra point. And a defense that averaged 16.8 points allowed during the four wins yielded more than twice that against the Bengals and their backup quarterback, Jake Browning.

"We have a drive going, and a penalty moves us back. We have another drive going, and another penalty moves us back," coach Shane Steichen said. "A lot of that stuff — the punt, Ameer (Speed) runs into (returner Isaiah McKenzie). In that situation I was thinking, 'Geez, Louise.' "

The Colts are still in playoff contention. To stay there, they need to regain their edge.

"It was just one of those days," Steichen said. "I have full confidence that we'll get it cleaned up."

WHAT'S WORKING

WR Michael Pittman Jr. He has at least eight receptions in six straight games and fell 5 yards short of his third straight 100-yard games. Pittman needs 16 yards for his second 1,000-yard season and is five catches away from his first 100-reception season in a contract year.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The ground game. Indy's woes cannot be traced entirely to the absence of 2021 NFL rushing champ Jonathan Taylor. But losing Taylor to a right thumb injury hasn't helped. Indy has failed to to rush for 80 or more yards four of its last six games after topping 125 yards six times in its first eight.

STOCK UP

LB Ronnie Harrison Jr. Three weeks ago, Harrison was promoted to the active roster after the surprise release of three-time All-Pro Shaquille Leonard. In his first three games, Harrison has seven tackles and has picked off two passes, including a pick-6 late in the first half Sunday that tied the score at 14.

STOCK DOWN

LT Bernhard Raimann. He has played relatively well in his second season as Indy's blind-side protector. But Raiman struggled at Cincinnati, allowing two sacks and additional pressures. He also drew a tripping penalty while trying to slow down Bengals DE Trey Hendrickson.

INJURIES

Indy had four starters out against the Bengals — Taylor, RT Braden Smith (knee), LB E.J. Speed (knee) and CB JuJu Brents (quad). It's not clear whether any of the four could return this week.

KEY NUMBER

2 — Sunday was just the second time this year Indy failed to score 20 or more points, and the first time it happened on American soil. It scored just 10 points in Germany, which was enough to beat New England.

NEXT STEPS

The Colts will face another backup quarterback on Saturday and, like the Bengals, the Steelers and Mitch Trubisky may try to slow Indy's pass rush with screens (**TV:** Live on CBS at 4:30 p.m.). Unlike the Bengals, though, the Steelers are scoring just 16.2 points per game. It's up to Indy's defense to help the team bounce back.

Bengals hope to stay in playoff race

BY MITCH STACY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — With a 34-14 thumping of the Colts on Sunday, the Cincinnati Bengals climbed above the .500 mark for the first time in a month. That didn't seem likely after Bengals franchise quarterback Joe Burrow was lost to a wrist injury and backup Jake Browning was pushed into service.

The 27-year-old Browning was a superstar in high school in California and threw for 12,296 yards and 94 touchdowns at the University of Washington but hadn't gotten much traction in the NFL. Browning is taking advantage of the opportunity. He's been outstanding in his past two starts and has the Bengals hoping to reach the playoffs again in a crowded AFC race that has them among six teams sitting at 7-6.

Browning threw two touchdown passes and rushed for another score in Sunday's win over the Colts.

In the previous game, he passed for 354 yards and a touchdown in a win at Jacksonville.

He distributed the ball to eight different receivers Sunday as the Bengals tied their season high for points.

"Jake is leading the offense and running the show," said Tee Higgins, who had critical receptions of 46 and 26 yards Sunday. "We've got to keep playing to his strengths and keep doing what we do."

Coach Zac Taylor said Browning, who was on the Bengals practice squad for the past two seasons, was a well-prepared veteran by the time he was called on to replace Burrow.

"(The backup) just needs to step up, be prepared and play as best as he can without our starter out there. Jake has done that," Taylor said.

"The guys believe in him, but it's not about one guy. It's the unit coming together, and the defense and special teams up supplementing that. I think the team effort has been outstanding the last two weeks."

WHAT'S WORKING

Cincinnati's offense was balanced against the Colts. Running backs Joe Mixon and Chase Brown combined for 104 rushing yards and 126 receiving. The offensive line had one of its best games, allowing zero sacks. The defense held the Colts to 46 rushing yards and sacked Gardner Minshew three times.

"It all seems to be flowing well," Browning said.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The Bengals converted just 3 of 11 third down attempts. ... Colts WR Michael Pittman Jr. often got between Bengals defensive backs, getting eight catches for a team-leading 95 yards.

STOCK UP

Brown has made the most of his playing time after dealing with a hamstring injury earlier this season. He had the biggest play of the game against the Colts, gathering in a short pass and racing 54 yards down the right sideline for Cincinnati's first score. According to NFL Next Gen Stats, Brown hit a top speed of 22.05 mph on the touchdown. That's the fastest by a Bengals ball carrier since NFL Next Gen started tracking in 2016.

STOCK DOWN

TE Irv Smith Jr. hasn't had a pass reception in the past two games. He was signed as a free agent to be a pass catcher, but Drew Sample and Tanner Hudson are being used more in that role.

INJURIES

CB Cam Taylor-Britt (ankle) was put on injured reserve on Dec. 4. The second-year player has been one of the Bengals best defensive backs. He could possibly return before the end of the season.

KEY NUMBER

0 — Points allowed in the second half by the Bengals against the Colts.

NEXT STEPS

Continue to play well around Browning for a tough closing stretch that includes the Vikings (7-6) on Saturday (**TV:** Live on NFL & WCPO-9 at 1 p.m.), followed by the Steelers (7-6), at AFC West-leading Kansas City (8-5) and Cleveland (8-5).

Vikings' Jefferson plans to play against Bengals after chest hit

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Justin Jefferson and the Minnesota Vikings waited seven games for the star wide receiver to rejoin the offense, enduring an arduous and calculated rehabilitation process while his injured hamstring healed.

The Vikings hadn't yet made it to halftime in his return, when a frustrated Jefferson found himself in the back of an ambulance.

The hard hit he took to the chest in the second quarter Sunday at Las Vegas forced him out of the game for good — and, to his chagrin, to the hospital for precautionary testing.

"It had some pain at the impact, but I've been out for too long. I wanted to continue to play, continue to battle out there with my brothers," Jefferson said. "I definitely broke down a little bit after they told me that I wasn't going to be able to go back into the game."

The good news for the 2022 AP NFL Offensive Player of the Year is that this latest interruption to his season won't last nearly as long as the first one.

Further evaluation for internal bleeding, broken ribs and other serious conditions Sunday revealed no reason he couldn't return to the stadium and fly home with the team. Jefferson has been practicing this week on a limited basis, but he said Wednesday without hesitation that he has no restriction and will play Saturday at Cincinnati. The diagnosis, he said, is a deep internal bruise.

"I'm definitely blessed to be in this situation," Jefferson said. "I've just got to keep going, keep doing what I need to do, and hopefully Saturday I can give what everybody is expecting."

Jefferson had two receptions for 27 yards against the Raiders. He has 38 catches for 598 yards this season, remarkable totals for less than 5½ games but still disappointing for Jefferson's standards. He said last week in advance of his return he's aiming for 1,000 yards, still a viable goal with the Vikings (7-6) having four games remaining on the regular season schedule.

On the ride to the hospital, as he watched the game on his phone with the sirens blaring outside, Jefferson said he was scared but still confident he would've been fine to return to the field. Once he arrived at the emergency room, he stayed fixated on the screen — with audible and demonstrative reactions to the action.

"The people that were really hurt, they probably were annoyed by me," Jefferson said with a big laugh. "It was definitely an experience for me that I don't want again."

RUNNER

FROM PAGE B1

to a another level. No where was that demonstrated better than at the Duke Meyer Invitational at Hanover College, where his time of 17:25 was a full minute faster than a year ago on the same course and good for seventh-place overall in a very fast field.

Hoffman's rise coincided with that of the team. After years of struggling to fill out a full team, this year's Cubs were loaded with athletes and posted the third-fastest 5K average in school history (17:27) while becoming just the seventh Madison squad in 56 years to place second or higher at the sectional.

Madison's run ended at the "super regional" at Shelbyville — there was no semistate this year — but Hoffman was pleased with the team's success.

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John Michael Crouch, Madison	Sr.
Logan Ferris, Madison	Sr.
Nate Fewell, Shawe	Fr.
Sam Fewell, Shawe	Sr.
Cavaan Hambrick, Shawe	Fr.
Landon Higgins, Southwestern	Jr.
Layne Laufer, Madison	Jr.
Will Laufer, Madison	So.
Bryce Miller, Madison	Sr.
Caden Ream, Southwestern	So.

-Runner of the Year

"The team culture has shifted for the better and it's cool to see that," said Hoffman, who ran seventh at the sectional in 17:47 and 77th in the regional a 17:06. " A couple years ago we were fighting to even make it out of the sectional. So just to see the program and the shift that we've had is really a good feeling."

"We had pure leadership from (Hoffman) and from some of our other upperclassmen. They really took hold of things," Sandlin said. "It wasn't coach-led at all. They were like, 'We're going to do this and the rest of you guys, we're pulling you along as well.' So to have that leadership goes really, really far in any sport."

Hoffman has another year of high school left but he's already looking ahead to college. He would like to study education and teach physical education.

He's also considering running in college but isn't totally sure. His coach, a standout at Franklin College back in the day, believes he can do anything he sets his sights on.

"His times are just going to continue to come down and as he continues to believe in himself, it's only going to get that much better," Sandlin said. "This year. I saw a big change with him just believing in himself. Along with the work that he's putting in, you're gonna see even better jumps from him. He's far from being where he will be."

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